1579

THE FORREST OF Fancy.

WHEREIN IS CONTEINED VEry prety Apothegmes, and pleasaunt histories, both in meeter and prose, Songes, Sonets, Epigrams and Epistles, of diuerse matter and in diuerse manner.

With sundry other deuises, no lesse pithye then pleasaunt and profytable.

Reade whereregard, peruse each point well, (thee
and then giue thy iudgement as reason shall moue
or eare thou conceiue it, twere hard for to tell,
cause bee no whereforе to reproue me.

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1579.

f.

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The Booke ſpeaketh to the Buyers.

To thoſe that be welthy, and paſſe by this place.
My talke only tendeth, ſo conſter the caſe.

Hat kind of thing I am,
my ſhape doth ſhew the ſame:
No Forreſt, though my father pleaſde,
to tearme me by that name.
But Fancy fits me well,
For I am fully fraught,
With Fancies ſuch as may correct
but not corrupt the thought.
In me my friend thou mayſt,
(though thou be yong or olde)
Ritche, poore, of high or low degree,
thy duety here beholde.
For Yonkers I haue founde,
and foolish trifles ſtore:
For auncient ſyres, ſuch ſeemely ſightes,
as ſhall content them more.
If thou a Louer bee,
come learne thy leſſon here:
Where wilfull workes of witles wightes,
ſhall perfect playne appeare.
What treaſon is in truſt,
how fickle friendes are found:
How wretched is the ſtate of man,
what miſchiefe doth abound.
What follies fond we frame,
our foolish fancy to:
Here mayſt thou ſee, and ſo diſcearne,
what beſt beſeemes to do.
Sith then ſuch profite may,
by meanes of me redounde:

To thee my friend, before thou passe,
this present plot of grounde.
Put hand in purse for pence,
to purchase me withall:
What foole a Forrest would forsake,
that sees the price so small.
A Shilling is the moste,
a very slender share:
No hurt to him that hath ynough,
so small a peece to spare.

Finis. qd. Fancy.

The Authour to the Reader.

THe Husbandman when meetest time shall serue,
doth plow his ground, and sow good seedes therein,
Then seekes he how he should the same preserue,
From carryon crowes, that gape the graine to win,
Vntill that it to ripen doe begin.
And being ripe, he makes no more delay,
But reapes it vp, so soone as well he may.

His corne thus cropt, and scattered on the ground,
Straight into sheafes he doth the same deuide,
And to his Barnes he beares it ready bound,
Whereas a while he suffers it to bide.
Till at the last he thrashers doth prouide,
Who from the corne the straw and stubble take,
And on a heape the graine togither rake.

Which as it is, they put into a Fan,
And so deuise to driue the chaffe from it.
My selfe I count to be the Husbandman,
For in this booke, as in a ground most fit,
To sow the seedes of my vnwildy wit,

I scat-

I ſcattered haue my fancies in ſuch wiſe.
And ſenſt them ſo, as I can beſt deuiſe.

All being done that doth thereto pertaine,
Good Reader I preſent to thee the ſame,
Deſiring thee that thou wilt take the payne.
All thinges amiſſe to put in perfect frame:
And beare with me although I merite blame,
Conſidering that I ſought of meere good will,
in all I might thy fancy to fulfill.

In Forreſt wiſe here fancies I preſent.
To thee, with hart that feruently doth craue,
Each curteous wight to way my good intent,
And note the cauſe why I preſumed haue,
To thruſt my ſelfe amidſt the ſurging waue.
Not glory vaine, or hope to purchaſe praiſe,
But ſloth to ſhon, my mind thereto did raiſe.

R. W. to the Reader, in the Authours behalfe.

WHat led *Leander* to presume,
so oft to swim through surging seas:
But hope to fynd his *Hero* there,
where he ariu'de his hart to ease.
What moude the Troyan to attempt,
to go to Greece, but hope to haue
The princely pearle, the promised pray,
which most of all his hart did craue?
And what procured *Æsons* sonne,
to put his life in perrill so,
To fetch the *Fleece* from *Colcos* Cottie?
where to augment his greefe and wo,
So many perrils were preparde,
but that he hopte thereby to gaine:
Such glory great as after death,
should make his fame for aye remayne.
If all these hopte, and had in fine,
the thing that they did hold most deare:
Let him that hath this prety booke,
for thy delight compyled heare,
Good Reader, reape his iust reward,
to recompence his meere good will.
Receiue his gift in gratefull wise,
and of the same conceiue none ill.
For euill none he ment thereby,
(what euer enuious mates surmise:)
Right sure I am: conceiue therefore,
of him and his none otherwise.
So shalt thou make him think his paynes,
imployed well in each respect.
And happy count his hap that some,
will with good will his work protect.

Finis.

The Epistle to the Reader.

SO variable are the minds of men (gentle Reader) and so diuerse their opinions, that amongste twenty, it is hard to fynd twaine that agree all in one thing. For commonly that which one man lyketh, another loatheth, that which one man praiseth, another reproueth, that which one desyreth, another disdayneth, and whatsoeuer pleaseth one, doth as much displease another. The yong man taketh pleasure in all youthfull exercises, as Daunsing, Synging, playing on instruments, dallying with daynty dames, and such like, whereby his pleasure may be procured, and increased, without respecting any perill that maye insue thereof. The aunciente Syre, whome experience hath taught to be more wise and wary of such vaine vanities, hath an eye to his profit, and reiecteth pleasure as a thing vnprofytable. The couragious Captayne accompteth it for his greatest glory to be in the field, marching among his men of warre, or skirmishing with his enemies, to trie his strength and courage, with the hazarde of his life, for the furtheraunce of his fame, and increase of his commodity. The man likewise that is inclyned to learning, is alwayes best at ease when he is setled in his study, there to tosse and turne his bokes, perusing the workes of auncient wrighters, whereby he may in tyme be able both to profite his countrey, and purchase such prayse to himself as is due to his good desyres. But as these great clarkes doe not all delight to study one onely science, but some apply themselues to deuinity, some to Philosophie, some to phisicke, some to Astronomy, and some to euery one of them alike, not making any speciall choyse of eyther of them

them. So likewiſe the common ſorte whoſe learning nor capacity cannot attaine to the full perfection or perfecte vnderſtanding of ſuch deepe miſteries, haue their ſeuerall delightes, as well in reading ſuch workes, as are in theire vulgare tongue, as in any thing elſe. For one will peruſe pleaſant Hiſtories, and other poeticall deuiſes, this man merry tales, and other like toyes: that man deuine and morrall matter, euery one ſeuerally, according to his ſeuerall affection, and naturall inclination, and there is no man be he neuer ſo well ſtayed, that will adict himſelfe to one thing onely, and refuſe all other. For as the ſtomacke is quickly cloyed with feeding continuallye vppon one kinde of meate, ſo is the mind greatly greeued, to bee alwayes muſing vppon one matter, and therefore deſyreth chaunge.

Which conſidered, after I had gathered togither in one ſmall volume diuerſe deuiſes, as well in proſe as meeter, of ſundry ſortes, and ſeuerall matter, which at idle times (as wel to ſharpen my wits, and ſhake of ſloth, as to ſatiſfye my friendes, that had occaſion to craue my helpe in that behalfe) I haue heretofore as occaſion ſerued, diuerſly framed, ſuppoſing the ſame to be fitte for this preſent time, and agreable with the mindes of moſte men, I haue (as well for the diſordered placing of euery perticuler parcel thereof, being rudely and diſperſedly deuided, as alſo for the ſeuerall fancies therin contained, fit for euery degree, & agreable to their diuerſe affections) thought good to name it *The Forreſt of Fancy*, and ſo cauſing it to be imprinted, I doe here friendly Reader, preſent it vnto thee as a gift, of my good will, deſiring thee to accept it. And though my yong yeares and ſmall experience, will not permit me to wryghte ſo pithily as ſome haue done heretofore, whoſe worthy works are extant, and in great eſtimation, yet conſidering that I haue not done it either for gaine or glory, but partly to make my ſelfe more apte in other matters of more importaunce wherein I maye

happen

happen hereafter to be imployed, and partly to procure thy pleasure and profite (which may easilye be obtained) if thou doe dugly consider, and rightly conceiue of that which shall be offered to thy view, I beseech thee conster my doinges to the best, take this my small labour in good parte, amend the faultes escaped. Let my good meaning serue to excuse my rashnes, in presuming thus boldly to publish a thing of so small valew, and vouchsafe me thy friendly assistaunce against the slaundrous reportes of enuious *Zoylus* and his mallicious mates, and in so doing, thou shalt incourage me hereafter to search my wits, and apply my trauaile to contriue some thing more worthy thy reading.

A morrall of the misery and mischiefe that raigneth amongst wicked worldlinges, with an admonition to all true Christians, to forsake their sinne and amend their manners.

Woe to he be that silent sits,
and lets his mind to see,
The subtle slights that wily wights
doe worke in each degree,
shall surely synd full great abuse,
In euery place committed:
And vertue voyde and out of vse,
all reason quight remitted:
Might maistereth right, the poze are pincht,
almost in euery place,
Fraude, flattery, gold, and greedy gaine,
each where doth purchase grace.
But truth and plaine simplicity,
reapes hatred euery where:
Good deedes are dead, and charity,
hath hid her head for feare.
Whozes hold the place that Matrons nilde,
doe merite moste to haue:
And flattery flockes about the Court,
in steede of fathers graue.
The couetous carle doth scrape for coyne,
the royotous sonne spendes all:
The true man cannot scape the theefe,
but in his handes must fall.
The Vsurer now doth vse his trade,
The Landlozd raise his rent:
The powling Lawyer playes his part,
the truth to circumuent.
Our Gentles now doe iette it out,
in brauery passing measure.

Till they haue lost by vaine expence,
both credite, land and treasure.
The yeomans sonne not liking of,
his fathers honest state,
Will climbe to be a gentleman,
and euery Gentles mate.
The Gentleman will be a Knight,
the Knight a Lord likewise,
The Lord an Earle, the Earle a Duke,
the Duke will higher rise,
And make himselfe a puissant Prince,
the Prince will Monarke be,
So no man now will be content,
To bide in his degree.
The sonne doth seeke his fathers death,
his liuing to obtaine,
Faith fayles in all, few trusty friendes,
doe any where remayne.
The mayster seekes by rygorous meanes,
his seruauntes to suppresse,
And seruaunts worke all meanes they may,
their maysters to distresse,
Now mothers trayne their Daughters vp,
In loathsome liberty:
whereby oft times their honest names
they bring in ieopardy.
Excesse is vsde in euery place,
the poze no whit relende,
Labour is loathde, and Idlenesse
ech where his web hath wende,
The Tauernes tiplers ply a pace,
eache alehouse hath his knightes:
In dice and dauncing, deuilish trades,
are all their whole delightes.
All law is left for liberty,
all vertue changde for vice:

All truth is turnde to Trecherye,
all thinges inhaunce their price.
Eache craftes man now hath craft at will,
his neighbour to defraude,
They sweare, and oft forsweare themselues,
for euery foolish gaude.
But is it well where euery thing,
doth seeme so much amis?
No doubtlesse no: A wicked world,
and wretched state it is.
A world in deede, deuided quight,
from godlinesse and grace:
A world that greatly God abhorres,
from which he turnes his face.
A world it is, which will not last,
a world whose end is nye:
A world that shall his fury taste,
that sees our sins from hye.
A world that will full well content,
the enemy of our ioy.
A world that workes his lewd intent,
that would our soules destroy.
Therefore let eache true christian hart,
his secrete sins forsake:
To God let him with speede reuert,
and meeke subiection make.
Committing all his actions still,
to his deuine protection,
So shall he surely shun all ill,
and liue without infection.

Finis.

After

After the death of Oedipus King of Theabes, his two sonnes *Ethiocles* and *Polinices*, striuing whether of them should succeede him, in the ende it was agreede, that they should raigne by course one yeare the one, the next yeare the other, But *Ethiocles* raigning first, whe his yeare was expired, woulde not giue place to his brother *Polinices*, which cauled him to write vnto him in effect as followeth.

THy cruell dealing hath procurde,
thy Brothers trembling hand,
O Etheocles for to write,
and let thee vnderstand
what iniury thou doest offer me,
in going thus about
To breake the promise made to me,
wherein thou doest no doubt
Both God and nature much offend,
for when we were at strife,
when deadly discord twixt vs twaine,
and enuye was so rife,
That each of vs the Kingdome craude,
our father then decest,
It was by counsayle graue decreede,
to cause our countreyes rest,
That each should yearely raigne by course,
whereto thou didst agree,
Then drawing Lots who should be first,
the lot did light on thee.
I gaue thee place, as right required,
thou hast a yeare and more,
Enioyde the same most peaceably
without anoy, therefore
Thou shouldst permit thy brother now,
thee therein to supply,

To

To rule as thou haste done before,
but thou doest it deny,
So much ambition doth ther blind,
and filthy lukers lure,
That to resigne to me my right,
thou mayst not now endure,
For when I did the same demaund,
thou prondly didst refuse,
To render it, wherein thou doest
thy brother much abuse,
But doest thou thinke I will receiue,
such aunswere as thy hande
And suffer thee against my will,
to rule the Realme and stand.
Which I should doe, that will I no
for all thy power and strength,
But in despight of thee I hope,
to haue the same at length
And make thee feele the smart thy selfe,
of this thy offred wrong,
If that to yield to my request
thou doest the time prolong.
Adrastus is a mighty King,
whose Daughter is my wife,
And for that cause with all his power,
will aide me during life,
Whose force conioyned with mine owne,
doth farre surpasse thy might,
Therefore let reason rule the same,
doe yeeld to me my right,
Let vs like brethren liue and loue,
e ach other as we ought:
Let vs not stray from natures bondes,
and stirre vp strife for naught.
Least that Report reporting ill,
on vs doe rumour raise,

And

And so the race of Oedipus,
be wicked deemde alwayes.
what though our father did offend,
in taking to his fere
Iocasta fayre vnwittingly,
that was his mother deare,
Shall that to vs a patterne be:
to teach vs to offend.
May rather let it be a meane,
to make vs to amend.
Shall it be sayd that we haue wrought,
the ruine of our land,
And of our selues so wilfully,
let all thinges well be stand.
Conlider well what daungers great,
we may incurre thereby,
And what great mischiefe may insue
if thou this thing deny,
Thou knowest that from the mighty Ioue,
decendes our royall race,
Let vs not therefore blot the shyne,
that may our byrth deface,
Let not the Thebans iustly be
compeld to curse vs both,
For thy ambitious greedy mynd,
whereof I would be loth,
For what if in this cursed strife,
we both should chaunce to dye,
what great contention should there be
who should our place supply?
what great disdaine? what priuy grudge?
what tumultes then would grow?
what hurly burly would there bee
what treason then would flowe?
Though ciuill warre the countrey would,
by topsy turuy turne

Strong

Strong holds would then be battered downe,
whole Townes and Cities drowne,
What clamours then, what doleful cryes,
would be throughout the land:
How many Orphans would be made,
who should in safety stand:
Chast Virgins would be then deflowred,
yong infantes would be slaine,
The rich men should be spoyld and robbd,
the poore put to paine,
Oh what disorder they would grow:
what murder made of men:
What sacraledge, what raunsack rose,
what bloodshed would be then:
Waye well these things, my brother deare,
which if thou doe proceede,
Is lykely for to come to passe,
therefore I say take heede.
For if thou be the cause therein,
then truely shalt thou trye,
Their blood on thee for their offence,
from heauen will vengeaunce crye.
And I not to be blamde at all,
sith that I nothing craue,
But that which doth to me pertaine,
and I of right should haue,
Take heede in time, aduise thee well,
hereafter comes not yet,
The house can not stand long, that is
on ill foundation set.
The ship that at sure ancker lyes,
is safe in euery place:
Twixt barke and tree, thrust not thy hande
beware in any case:
Thou put not fyre into the tow,
sharpe not thy knife I say,

If thou therewith wilt not be hurt,
but take this by the way.
That if thou tread vpon a worme.
she will turne back againe:
Care stede be stolne, shut stable dore,
else is it all in vaine.
For he that takes not heede before,
shall afterwardes repent it:
Wherefore I say looke to it well.
whilst that thou maist preuent it.
A man when he doth see the stroke,
may soone auoyde the same,
So thou if that to reasons lore,
thou wilt thy fancy frame.
Thou maist this mischiefe eally shun,
that hangeth ouer thee:
But who so blind the prouerb sayth,
as hee that will not see.
Thou knowest all this as well as I,
I neede not make relation
Therefor to thee, words are but wind,
where will hath domination.
Faine nothing profite can the corne,
which on drie stones is sowne:
Nor counsell, him which doth mislike,
all counsell saue his owne,
I can and doe bide wrong ynough,
but cannot to much beare:
Looke eare you leape, for feare you catch,
a wrong low by the eare.
As by his Trumpe, the trumpiter
doth show his meaning plaine,
So by my letters in likewise,
my purpose I explaine.
Doe therefore as you shall see cause,
the blame shall byde in you:

If any thing amisse do chaunce,
and so I say adue,

Finis.

A warning to yong men to flye the flattery,
and shun the deceiptes of dissem-
bling dames.

WHat hard mishaps doth hamper youth,
when cursed Cupid list to frowne:
And yet he will not credite truth,
Till frowarde fortune fling him downe.
But when he is with dole distrest,
Then all to late he can perceiue,
what madnes did his mind molest,
His wretched woe by wrong to weaue,
Yea then he doth all Dames defy,
And vowes in vaine their fraude to flye,

Must hory heares needes make vs wise,
Discouering naked treasons hooke,
whose glittering hue by slight deuice
Doth make them blind that thereon looke,
And till in trappe they taken be,
That turnes their pleasure all to paine,
Their folly fond they cannot see,
Such madnes moues their busy braine,
In wisdomes wayes they think they walke,
And so for chese doe champe on chalke.

If liuing wightes might playnly see,
The wily workes of womens wits,
which couered close in bosome lie,
Disclosde at last by frantike fits.
Then would they learne to leaue their lookes,
And glaunce no more their glaring eyes,
Vppon those baites on hidden hookes,

which

Which whoso shall attempt to tast,
Is like for aye in woe to wast.

Where suters serue with long delay,
In dayly hope of some good hap,
Tormenting griefes at length doth pay,
Their pencion with an after clappe,
For such rewardes they dayly tynde,
That tyre their fancy faithfully,
On any catte of Cressids kinde.
That neuer counted of constancy,
whome Cue instructed long agoe,
To worke to man all greefe and woe.

Behold the gwerdon due to lone,
Bestowde vpon a fickle Dame.
As good of rotten redes to proue,
Some precious iem in forme to frame,
For why repentaunce comes at last,
And gripes his hart with grielly greefe,
That erst fond fancy followed fast,
which left him voyde of all reliefe:
A iust reward for recheleſſe wightes,
That will not shun such vain delightes.

Youth bends his net to catch the pray.
which some inioy that take no paine.
He toyles, yet seeth euery day,
His labour wasted all in vaine,
He beates the bush, and in meane space,
Another beares the byrdes away.
He fiercely doth pursue the chase,
whilst others doe possesse the pray,
And so the end of louers gaine,
Is loathsome labour for their paine.

Finis.

A plaine description of perfecte friendship.

TRue friendship vnfained
Doth rest vnrestrayned,
No terrour can tame it:
Not gaining, nor losing,
Nor gallant gay glosing,
can euer reclaime it.
In paine, and in pleasure,
The most truest treasure.
That may be desyred,
Is loyall loue deemed,
Of wisedome esteemed,
and chefely required.
Finis.

An Inuectiue against couetous persons.

AS after Sommer winter comes,
so age doth youth insue:
And after age comes sickenes in,
then death doth life subdue,
And after death the winding sheete,
which bringes vs to the graue,
This is the state of mortall men,
this is the end they haue.
Wherefore doe men their hoops vp coyne,
and hord it vp so fast,
why doe they care for worldly wealth,
as life would euer last.
why doe they take such paines for that,
which they must leaue behind.
To them that will dispearse the same,
as chaffe against the winde.

Of fayned friendship.

As Swallowes doe in Sommer time appeare,
And in the winter cold cannot be seene.
So faithles friendes will vnto vs draw neare,
so long as welth doth flourish fresh and greene,
But when that fayles, then farewell friendship ts,
All is for gaine, that these vile vipers do.

The commodities of Mariage.

IF mariage bring a wife,
the wife good children bringes,
Those children happy lifs.
of happy life loue springes.
Of loue eternall ioy.
of ioy doth healt h proceede.
Of health long lyfe for aye.
loe this is mariage meede,

In contrarium.

If mariage bring a wife,
the wi'e ill children bringes,
Those children endles strife,
of strife all hatred springes.
Of hatred care and greefe,
through care doth sickneffe coms,
Through sickneffe death in breefe.
lo this is all the fomme.

Finis.

Of the wickedneffe of women and howe prone they are to the procatious of the flesh.

IOue on a day disposde to iest,
with Iuno for delight,

The wicked wiles of womens wits.
in wordes did plaine resite.
And said that they to fleshly lustes,
more subiect were then men.
Iuno denyde, to haue it tryde,
they craued iudgement then.
And for because Tiresias had,
both man and woman bin,
Supposing him the meetest man,
and most expert therein,
They did elect him for their iudge,
the truth thereof to trye:
The sentence past with Iupiter.
and boldly did replye,
That women were the wantonner,
although for shame they sought,
For to conceale from open shew.
what was their secret thought.
But Iuno as the nature is,
of all the femine sect,
When as she saw Tiresias did
her wished will reiect,
In giuing so his sentence graue.
contrary to her mind,
(Inflamde with yre to worke reuenge,)
she made Tiresias blinde,
Therefore I must of force conclude,
that neither fury fell,
Nor Serpent dyre, not Tiger fierce,
nor all the fiendes in hell.
May more torment the mind of man,
or worke his wretched woe:
So much as can one wicked wench.
in whome doth fury floe.

Finis.

What

What small trust there is to be reposed in friendes or kinsfolkes.

SIth friendship is as rare a thing to finde,
As tis to see a Swanne all black of hue:
wise Esope in his Fables as we finde,
Doth warne vs well to thinke no friend so true.
That will be prest, our pleasure to fulfill,
So redily as we the same require,
For why in trust is treason tried still,
And faireſt lookes doe lack the beſt deſyre:
wherefore (saith he) let no man trust his friend,
To doe the thing which he himselfe may doe,
For feare he be deceaued in the end,
By those whome he hath leaned most vnto,
For proofe whereof a Fable he resightes,
which who so notes, shall find to great effect,
The fraude of friendes he plainly there resites,
who to their promise haue but small respect.
A Larke there was vpon a certaine tyme,
That trained vp her yong ones in a feild,
where Corne did grow, which then was euen in prime,
To be cut downe as ripe, the Larke to sheild
Her little ones from harme, when as she went
Abrode to get such meate as should suffice
To feede them with, did giue commaundement,
That they should haue regard in any wise
To that they heard, and at her back returne,
To tell her all: it hapned on a day,
whilst she was forth, that thether came the Borne,
which ought the field, which to his sonne did say,
This geare is ripe and ready to be cut,
wherefore to morrow go thou in my name,
Vnto our friendes, and them in mind doe put
To come and helpe me to dispatch the same.

which

which charge his son dischargde in each respect,
whereto his friends in friendly wise did frame
Their aunswere straight, that they would not neglect,
To worke his will when night approched was,
This Lacke come home her eyes did sitter fast,
About her all and shewing what did pas,
Desyred her, that she in all the haste,
wold them transport vnto some other place,
But she perswading them to be content,
Commaunded them next day to lend good care,
To that they heard and so awaye she went.
Nert day in Field the farmer doth appeare,
with Sim his sonne, where all that day they spent,
But of his friendes there came not one at all,
wherefore vnto his sonne againe he said,
To morrow to my Cosines goe you shall,
And say that I require their friendly ayde,
To reape my corne: the yong ones hearing this,
Nore eat nest were with their beloued damme.
To be remoued from thence, but she ywis,
Did let it slip vntill the next day came,
For why quoth she, no cosins are so kinde,
That by and by will come at kinsmans call.
To morrow therefore marke what newes you find.
And then if need require, Ile helpe you all.
Nert day the Cosins came not into place,
wherefore the good man sayd, all friendes farewell,
And kinsmen to, now will I change the case,
And trust no trifling tale that they shall tell,
Trust to our selues we will go thou my sonne,
Nrouide to sickles for thy selfe and me,
And by our selues it shall to morne be done.
when as the Lacke hard this, nay now quoth she,
Tis time indeede to pack away from hence,
Vnles we will each one destroyed be.
And so she bare her little ones from thence,

Finis.

A Letter written by a yong maiden to a Louer of hers, wherein she detecteth the trechery of many men, and their great dissimulation.

THe crow would seeme a milk white swan to be,
So likewise would the prating rooke appeare,
Like Iunos byrd, which cannot well agree,
For kind bewrayes his craft, this is most cleare
yea Copper oft in Siluer is inclosde,
In glittering gold, great store of drosse doth bide,
In purest shels, as triall hath disclosde,
Carnels corrupt, themselues full often hide,
The wily wolfe we diuerse times do fynde,
In sheepes skin cloathde, and eake the dusky wall,
with hangings faire is hid, in humaine kinde,
We also see the like effect to fall,
For many a one there is, that makes a show,
Of perfect loue, when he meanes nothing lesse,
Men seeke to bring poore women to their bow,
And in the end to leaue them in distresse.
And for becaule I thought you one of those,
whose pleasure is poore women to deceiue,
with tatling tong you flatteringly can glose,
As by your deedes I dayly do perceaue,
I sent to you a flower for Flatterers fit,
Regarding naught how ye the same would take,
So free I am from biting on the bit,
As yet not drencht in Lady Venus lake.
If ought beside be done that you like ill,
And that the same in euill part you take,
Goe seeke your mendes you may whereas you will.
I reke you naught, this answere doe I make,
And though before, offence were none committed,
yet this your writing fond would it procure,

which hath full well with your demeanour fitted,
Being rude, and imprudent, and ill to indure.
No more I neede at this time here to say,
For well you may by this my mind perceiue,
yet of one thing I warne you by the way,
That with vaine hope your selfe you not deceiue,
And so to conclude, I bid you adue,
wishing you aduisedly my letters to view.

A yong man enamoured of a very fayre Gentlewoman, declareth the dollorous passions that he suffereth for her sake, and craueth mercy at her handes.

The more I looke vppon her louely face,
whose like before dame nature neuer framde,
The more I like, and long to liue in grace,
Of her that may Pandora well be namde,
whose deedes as due, the highest place haue claimde,
A Phenix rare, she may be tearmed right,
That so surmounes each other earthly wight.

Of Silke and Siluer, seemes her heare to be,
Her teeth of pearle, her eyes of Christall cleare,
Her lippes of Ruby, wrought in each degree,
She doth excell, and vaunteth voide of peere,
Her like did neuer liue, that I could heare,
who would not then accompt himself in blis,
That might inioy, so rare a iem as this,

Sir Aleran as may by bookes appeare,
A sily Saxon, sought her loue to gaine
That was the Emperour Othos Daughter deare,
And did in fine his wished will obtaine,
She graunted grace to quite his carefull paine,
And fearing nought her fathers furious yre.

Did yield her hart all whole at his deſyre.

And Achariſto he but baſely borne,
Beſought the loue of fayre Euphimia
who ſeemed nought his courteſy to ſcorn,
Though ſhe were Queene of riche corinthia.
yong Iaſon eke obtained Medea,
who though ſhe knew not him nor his eſtate,
Forſooke her friendes to be his matched mate.

A million more I might alledge of thoſe.
That did by ſeeking ſoone obtayne their will,
And when they were bewrapt in wretched woes.
Had ſpeedy helpe to ſhield themſelues from ill,
which otherwiſe their youthfull dayes would ſpill,
yea ſome we ſee from ſeruill ſtate aduaunſt.
By worthy dames whoſe grace to gaine they chaunſt.

Then ſpeake and ſpeede, be ſtill and want thy hyre,
For many a time and oft I haue hard ſay,
And ſometime proude, that he that would aſpire,
Torhat which will doth wiſh, the wiſeſt way,
Is to expulſe diſpayre which makes men ſtray,
Farre from the path of perfect peace and reſt,
Sith Fortune ſtill, doth helpe the bouldeſt beſt.

For can the Leach recure his pacientes paine,
Before he ſee from whence his greefe doth grow,
Or can the Lawyer pleade a matter plaine,
Vnles to him, his caſe the client ſhow,
Then ſhould this dainty dame on me beſtow
Her loyall loue before ſhe trye my truth,
The meeteſt meane to mone her mind to ruth.

Then welcome hope, and fooliſh feare farewell,
Farewell all care, and welcome pleaſaunt ioy.

That guilefull geſt no more with me ſhall dwell,
That would my helth and happy hap deſtroy.
What ſhould I doubt, ſith ſhe is nothing coy,
Her gentle hart can not his hurt procure,
That for her ſake would any death indure.

On her my health, on her my happy dayes,
Doe whole depend, on her my myrth or mone,
My welth or wo, my paine or pleaſure ſtayes,
My lyfe and death doth reſt in her alone,
By her I muſt, alas, or elſe by none,
Receaue releeke, and hope to haue redreſſe,
Of all the paines that doe my mind oppreſſe.

And as her bewty braue bindes me to loue,
So doth her courtious countinaunce comfort yielde,
And as the paine I feele my mind doth moue,
So hope perſwades that grace ſhall gaine the field,
But hap what may, doth loue and paine that builde
Their bower in breſt, my ſorrowes ſo renue,
That forſt I am for grace to ſeeke and ſue.

Behold therefore deare dame thy ſeruaunt heare,
Lies proſtrate at thy feete to pleade for grace,
Oh rue my ſtate let pittie plaine appeare,
For thou alas haſte brought me in ſuch caſe,
As if I find not fauour in thy face,
Like one that loathes his lyfe I wiſh my graue
To quench the cares which doe my health deprаue.

The bale I bide, I would right happy count,
And thinke my ſelfe in Paradice to be,
Yea in good hap all others to ſurmount,
might it but pleaſe you once to deeme of me
As I deſerue, and graciouſly agree,
To take me for your ſeruaunt, ſlaue or ſwayne,

Whoſe

Whose mind to please, I would refuse no payne.

Few wordes will serue a righteous cause to pleade,
If Iudge be iust, by whome it must be tryde,
How said I: what shall I her dealing dread,
No no, I know she will not shrinke aside,
From reasons rule, at any time or tide,
But render me my due deserued hyre,
which is the somme of all my whole desyre.

who serues, deserues, his recompence to haue,
who truely loues, ought to be loude againe,
whose greefes are great, must needes a medicine craue,
Or else permit himselfe to pine in paine,
Let me deare dame my guerdon then obtaine,
And doe not now in lew of lasting loue,
with deepe disdaine, my rash attempt reproue.

Finis.

Certaine Verses written in commendation of the Nut cornell.

AS late for my delight,
when dumpes oppresst my minde,
I walkte abrode the pleasaunt fieldes,
in hope some helpe to fynde.
By chaunce I lighted then,
Upon a huge great wood,
whereas in rankes right goodly trees,
of sundry sortes there stoode,
There were of large and lofty Okes,
great store in euery place,
Of Aspe and Elme, with byrche and Bore,
where euer I did trace.

There

There was great store of Hollyes,
of willow asp and ew,
And all the ground was clad with flowers,
of sundry sent and hue.
Amongest the rest of Philberts fayre,
was plenty euery where,
And euery thing that hart could wish,
a man might find it there,
Then from this Philbert tree I pluck,
A cluster that were clong,
Togither fast in seemely sort,
as on the tree they hung,
And when I had them in my hand,
not knowing how to vse them,
I was at last by reason taught,
betwixt my teeth to bruse them,
Which hauing done I found therein,
A Cornell fayre enclosde,
which for to be of pleasaunt tast,
I also then supposde.
And found it so, for in my life,
I neuer tasted thing,
More pleasaunt then the Cornell was,
which from that tree did spring.
The Philbert Cornel is a dish,
for any princes meete,
And they that of the same will tast,
shall find it wondrous sweete.
Abone all other kinds of fruite,
the philbert in my minde,
Doth seeme most pleasaunt in the tast,
as they that proue shall find,
Such vertue in this cornel is,
that I haue heard men say,
Phisitions vse it many times,
their patientes paines to stay.

For

For many thinges this cornel is,
commodious yet beside:
As they can witnesse wondrous wel,
that haue the vertue tryde.
And therefore as I did begin,
euen so I will not misse,
To say that of all fruict the best,
the Philbert cornel is.

Finis.

A Louer hauing long concealed his loue, at the last reuealeth it, and craueth fauour at the handes, of his beloued mistres.

OFt haue I seene in others, and sometime proued it in my selfe, that want of audacity, and feare of repulse, hath bronghte manye cares into the minde, and greeuous thoughtes into the head. which being reueled and manifested to the causer thereof, the party greeued hath fed on foy, wholye bathed in pleasure, and receiued worthy consolation, wherefore calling to remembraunce this saying of Seneca, that hee whiche feares, and suffers opportunity to slip, when hee knoweth the wight that can cure him, may wel be accompted a wilfull destroyer of himselfe.

Expulsing feare, I haue at the last aduentured to crane a remedy at your handes, on whome my helpe wholy dependeth, whose wisedome and curtesy being suche as can easily by outward Iestures, perceiue the inward meaning of the mind, and by secrete signes and priuy practises, soone perceiue where good toill and affection is fixed. It were superfluous to vse anye large discourse in declaring what great loue I beare vnto you, whiche by howmuche it is of longer continuaunce, by so much is it more extreame, and my tormentes thereby the more intollerable. For as fyre the longer it lyeth couered, the more forcible it is, when it bursteth

burſteth out, and harder to be quenched, ſo loue the longer it is lodged in any man, and conceled, the more vehement it is, and more difficult to be ſuppreſſed. Seeing then that my lyfe being onely ſuſtayned by the fauour of your deuine graces, cannot be maintained one onely minute of an houer, without the liberall helpe of your ſweeteneſſe and vertue, I beſeech you, (if the harty prayers of any mortall tormented man, may euer haue force and power to moone you to pitty) that it may pleaſe you of your rare clemencye and accuſtomed courtely, with the dew of grace proceeding from your ſeemely ſelfe, to redeeme from henceforth yours ſeruauntes moſte miſerable and afflicted mind from death or martirdome, by reaping the fruite of his vnfayned affection, as his heartchiefeſt de-
ſyreth.

A Louer whose friend for his sake was frowardlye delte withal, writeth vnto her, to perswade her with pacience, to suffer it for a season.

AS one bewrapt in wastefull woe,
in dizzy dread I stand,
Least that my shippe on Rocks should rend,
or perish in the Sand.
Least blustring blastes should drive my barke,
to vnacquainted shore,
Least swelling waues should soke it so,
as naught may it restore.
To former state and strength againe,
least foes of forein land:
should make encounter with my men,
that may not long withstand.
Or least with long some Sirew should,
the pilate so allure,
As by that meanes, his losse and mine,
vnwisely he procure.
A thousand thoughtes in head do swarme me,
which will not me permit,
Ne night nor day my rest to take,
as nature decrees it fites.
You are the ship, whose safety so,
my hart hath euer sought,
you are the Barke for whose mishaps,
my head with care is fraught.
Such craggy clifes, such greedy gulfes,
such sundry sortes of Sandes,
Such daungers great, such perilous porres,
am idst your passage standes,
Such whirling winds, such blustering blastes,
which cleane contrary blow,

Such tempestes straunge, such wallowing waues,
about you still doe flowes.
Such syrens with their subtill songes,
allure your pilate still:
I meane your mother that thereby,
she seekes to worke your ill.
Such homebred hatefull hellish hagges,
such friendly fauning foes,
whose priuie mallice prickes farre worse,
then bryre amidst the rose.
which breedes my bale, and to my mind,
doth dayly bring vnrest,
For feare least you by their despight,
should be to much oppress,
But sith as yet I see no way,
these euils to preuent,
with perfect patience arme your selfe,
till helpe from Goddes sent,
And pray to him with hart and voyce,
to further my desyre:
which once obteind, doubt not to fynde,
such rest as you require,
And thereby be in such estate,
as they that now deuise,
To worke your woe, to gaine good will,
shall then all meanes deuise,
Thus leaning now for lack of time,
a long discourse to make.
I bid adue, and kisse this scrowle,
that you in hand shall take.
Hoping it shall as thankfully,
of you receaued be,
As I desyre most willingly,
your hart from harme to free.

Finis.

An

An admonition to Maisters, how they should behaue themselues towardes their seruauntes.

THose whome we feare we cannot loue,
And whome we loue, not them we hate,
And whome we hate, we would remoue,
From former health and happy state,
And trapping them in traiterous snare,
In steede of ioy inioyne them care.

Let such therefore as maysters be,
And haue the charge of many men,
To them be courtious, fraude and free,
And well they shall be serued then.
Loude and obayde with faithfull hart,
As they doe merite by desarte.

But such as seeke by rigorous wise,
To be obaide and feared of all,
Their seruauntes will them much despise,
And seeke all meanes to worke their thall,
Although for feare they doe obay,
Thus proofe shewes plainely euery day.

Finis.

A yong man finding her to whome he had plighted promise, to be fraught with another mans fraicte, wrighteth vnto her as followeth.

ALl is not Gold that glittereth fayre,
Nor all thinges as it seemes to be,
Fayre hangings hide the dusky wall,
So doth the barke the hollow tree,

The flower that fayrest seemes in sight,
Hath not alwayes the sweetest smell,
But time that bringes all thinges to light,
And doubtfull dread from mind expell,
Hath tryde thy treason and my truth,
Thy secret slightes it doth detect.
yea time hath now bewrayde thy wiles,
Thy wauering wit, thy small respect
To plighted vow, thy cloked craft,
Thy filthy life so close concealde,
Thy double dealing diuelish driftes
And vild desires it hath reuealde,
Vnto my praise and thy reproche,
But who would loose for other gaine,
At handes of her in whome no truth
Did euer yet vouchsafe to raine,
Like as the Siren with her songs,
And Crocadile with dolefull eyes,
Procures the Pilat to approch.
The place where greatest perill lyes,
So hast thou longed me to loue,
And like of thee about the rest,
By flattering wordes by fayned vowes,
And meere good will which thou profest.
But wordes are wind I well perceaue,
And womens vowes are made in vaine,
Their wauering wits delight in chaunge,
And reason neuer rules the raine,
Ercules now shall serue no more.
To bleare mine eyes as they haue done,
Thy filthy fact bewrayes thy lore,
For which great shame thou shalt not shon,
The wine another hath dronke vp,
To me the dregges thou mindst to leaue,
But thinke not so, for if thou doe,
Thou greatly doest thy selfe deceaue,

No mistresse, no to yeelde for that,
Be sure perhaps not me compell,
I neede not one to taste my meate,
My selfe can serue the turne full well,
Let him therefore that sowder the seede,
Enioy the fruite thereof at will,
His last is fittest for thy foote,
To row thy Barge he best can skill.

Finis.

A Letter written to a yong widdowe, that was before matched with a very olde man, perswading her to make choyse of one whose yeares weare more agreeable with her owne.

MIstresse, if I thought it necessarye for you to morne for the death of your dead Husband, or if his lyfe had bene so delightfull vnto you, as his death was happy for himselfe, (because thereby he was not onelye eased of the great torments that his poore afflicted body sustayned in this worlde, but also attained to a more blessed life in the kingdom of heauen) I wold neither blame you for wishing him aliue again, or perswade you for lamenting his death (though I know it is nothing auayleable) but rather would exhort you thereunto, and with teares (as an vnfayned friende) helpe you to bewayle the losse of so comfortable a Companyon. But seing he was old, aged, weake, impotent, and continually so afflicted with sicknesse as he was, and you so yong and comlye a gentle woman as you are, you haue no cause to lamente his losse, or be sorry for his death, seeing it pleased God, by calling him to his mercy, hath to release him of paine, and ease you of the great trouble long time liued with him, and

therefore I would wish you to shade of the vaine Ceremonies, that in such causes are commonlye vsed, and frame your selfe againe to that blessed estate of matrimony, chusing one, who as well in yeeres as otherwise, may be more agreeable to your seemelye selfe, then your late husbande, whose old age, was rather a trifle then a comforte to your hart, being in nothing correspondent to your minde, or meete for your personage, for is ought euery true christian woman to doe, as well for procreation of Children, as for other necessary commodities incident thereunto, whereof by meanes of your greater yeares, and more often exercise in worldly affayres, you haue better experience then I, and as you are not ignorant how conuenient it is to marrye and how inconuenient to leade a single life, so am I well assured that you are not to learne what kind of person were most meete for you to match withall.

The Discommodities growing by the companye of an old man you haue already to your paine, ouer long experimented, and therefore I doubt not, but you will beware how ye light on the like againe.

And to marry with a young man, vnlesse it bee one, of whose demeanour you haue made some tryall, may be as perrilous, as the other, for if he be riche, he will ouer rule you, if he be prodigall, he will waste your substaunce, and his owne patrimony, if he be couetous, he will keepe you bare and withhold from you that which is necessary to be had, if he be lasciuious he will leaue you, and like better of others: Finally, if he be vicioully bent, how riche or young soeuer he be, yet were you better to be buried then matched with him.

Notwithstanding the bayte vanities of the worlde so allure you, as the perswasions of your friendes beare suche sweye with you, as you will thereby be moued to take one for his wealth whome ye cannot loue, and to refuse him whome ye would loue, for want of habilitye, considering what inconueniences growe by the one, and other, I will aduise you

of

of the other, wayting withall, how great an offence both to God and your owne conscience it is, to do a thing so contrary to your own liking.

Wherefore it were best for you to make choyse of some proper young man, whose condition and behauiour is already partly known vnto you, to be good with whom you may with a contented minde, leade a quiet and peaceable lyfe, and haue all thinges at your owne deuyse, without interruption.

And if I thought not my selfe to symple, for one so worthy as you are, I would both offer my selfe vnto you, (not as a husbande, but as a Seruant, to do all thinges at your direction,) and also hazard my lyfe to obtaine your fauour: as your handes, assuring you, that if it might so please you, to accept of me, you should of a poore friend, finde mee so faithfull, so conformable to your will, so carefull for your welfare, so redy to please you, and so loth to offend you, as you shall not haue cause eyther to thinke your loue euill imployed, or repent you of the election of so base a parentage.

And although in byrth I be farre inferiour, and in wealth nothing comparable vnto those that I know you may haue, if you please, yet dare I thus much vaunt of my selfe, that there is not in the whole worlde any one that would more loue, esteeme, and cherish you, then I would, if my hap might be so good to take you.

And if my purpose be not as my words doe pretend, and my deedes agreeable with my promises, I wishe the earth might gape and swallow me vp, or fyre from heauen consume me, for I protest now before God, from whome no secretes are concealed, that it is not so much for your welth or liuing that I desyre you, as for your wisedome, curtesy, comly behauiour, and other commendable vertues that abound in you, wherefore long before your husbandes departure, I was so greatly enamoured, as if feare of your displeasure, and mine owne infamie had not detained me with the raines of reason, I should shewe-

healed it vnto you. But now that time hath offred me so meete opportunity, as I maye more lawfully, and with lesse daunger do it, I haue presumed though peradventure more rashly then beseemeth me, yet not without vrgente cause, to manifest my meaning vnto you, craving both pardon for my bold attempt and calamitie of my sorrowe so long sustayned for the lone of you, which without youre grace or mine owne great perrill, cannot possible bee repressed, wherefore hoping of your accustomed clemency, to finde you fauourable in the furtherance of my desyre. I do wholy commit my health lyfe and liberty vnto you, whom I doe and shall faithfully serue and obay for euer, as youre moste humble Ientleman.

A pretty fancy of the fynding of a Whyte, wherein is colourablely included the course of a Captiue Louer, in purchasing his desyred purpose.

NOt long agoe with bow in hande,
and arrowes by my syde:
An Archer like I went abrode,
my cunning to haue tride,
And being entred in the field,
I cast mine eyes frankely,
And loe a goodly glistering whyte,
before my face did glaunce,
Which pleasaunt sight did please me so,
as to pursue the same,
Me thought it did my heart much good,
and was my greatest game,
Narcissus fonde did neuer gape,
vpon his shadow more,
Nor by the Image which he made,
Pigmalyon set such store,
As I did by that pretty whyte,
which so reioyce my hart,

As whilst it was within my sight,
I felt no paine nor smart.
But if I once did turne awaye
from it my dazeling eyes,
Good Lord: what cares within my brest,
did by and by arise.
So that as one bereste of sence,
as still as any stone:
I stoode at last and could not sturre,
But stared still vppon.
This palling white, much like to those,
whome worthy Persens made,
For to behold grim Gorgons head,
that causde their force to fade.
And turnde them all to stockes of stone,
for their outragious pride,
In seeking causeleesse his decay,
whome Ione himselfe did guide.
Then ruisht in reason by and by,
in comly colours clad:
And calde alowde, to cause me heare,
that earst no hearing had,
And when I was againe reminde.
with countenaunce graue and sad,
why standst thou senceleese thus,
beholding of the thing,
That still the more thou lookest thereon.
the more thy paine doth spring.
Lookes will not serue to swage thy greefe,
they rather cause thy care,
Therefore to put my wordes in proofe,
see thou thy selfe prepare:
Resort with speede to pitties place,
intreate her for to wrighte,
Some piteous plaint in thy behalfe,
to shew thy painfull plighte.

To Lady bewty, that she may,
When she hath tryde thy truth,
Receiue thee as her seruaunt iust,
and on thy wo haue ruth,
Then teaching me which way I should,
the path to pitty finde,
And how I might in eche respect,
declare to her my minde.
She went her way I know not how,
but I to gaine releefe:
And purchase that which was in deede,
my ioy and comfort cheefe.
Did euery thing as she had wild,
and when I had obtainde,
At pitties hand my bill of plaint,
Straight wayes my steppes I straind,
To bewties bower and there arinde,
and knocking at the gate,
Straight started out an ougly wighte,
whose hart did harbour hate.
He asked me what was my will,
and why I did resorte
Vnto that place, to whome in breefe,
I made a true reporte
Of all my state, and why I came,
which done he sayde to me.
Alas poore Lad thou arte vnwise,
and voyde of skill I see:
what thinkest thou heare to purchase ease,
no no thou art deceaude,
Therefore depart, or else be sure,
thy wo will soone be weaude,
My mistresse she to lofty lookes,
to lende an eare to thee,
She will not harken to thy sute,
but if thou earnest be,

And

And moue her minde with many wordes,
in Dungion deepe be sure
Thou shalt be cast, and during lyfe,
with daunger there indure,
where sadnesse shall assayle thee still,
and sorrow seeke to share
Thy vitall thread, yet shalt thou liue,
and leade thy lyfe in care.
So long as destinies doe permit.
beware therefore I say,
Take heede in tyme, turne backe againe,
and seeke some surer way.
These wordes did fill my hart with feare,
and made me doubt to doe
The thing which comfort did commaund,
and fancy forst me to.
And had not hope bene hard at hande,
to harten me herein:
Dispayre had put me from that place,
such force his wordes did winne:
And in this sort sayde Hope to me.
Fond foole why doest thou flye.
The pleasaunt plot wherein thy rest,
and happy health doth lye.
Returne againe, and feare thou nought,
thy practise put in proofe,
To Lady Wevey muse thy sute,
as best for thy behoofe.
For such her gracious goodnesse is,
as never will she bide,
That any suffer bale for ought.
but that when time hath tryde,
His true intent she will vouchsafe,
to him his hartes desyre
In eache respect, assure thy selfe,
then hope for happy hyre,

I gaue her thankes for good aduice,
and sayd I would obay:
Wherewith she brought me to deuise,
who made no longer stay.
But led me vnto Bewties bower,
and bad me there attend:
Till she with all her traine came forth,
and meekely then to bende
My knee, in offering vp the bill,
vnto her gracious hande,
Desyring her to view the same,
my mynde to vnderstande.
Which I obserude in eache respect,
my bill she doth detaine,
God graunt it worke so good effect,
as I some hope may gaine.
To purchase that which pleaseth me,
much more then all the Golde
That Midas or King Crœsus had,
my ioyes might not be tolde,
If I inioyde that Jewell rare,
That pearle, that precious whyte,
Which though it clad my corpes with care,
doth yeeld me great delight,
And if Dame bewties curtesy,
commit the same to me,
How much I would accounte thereof,
she would perceiue and see,
As Diamond deare I would it set,
in collour of my hart,
And keepe it still with busy care,
till death doe straine consent,
My corpes to clay from whence it came,
and leaue me voyde of lyfe,
Ye heauenly powers then graunt it me,
to make my ioyes more ryfe,

How Altamenes having vnwares slaine his owne Father Cartareus died for sorrow, when he had knowledge thereof.

IN Crete which now we Candie call
a fertill fruitfull Land,
One cartareus sometime raigned,
and Septure bare in hand.
Who had to sonne a noble youth,
a stoute and vallyaunt knight,
In prowes proude to haue no peere,
and Altamenes highte
This yong mans name, who being then
desirous for to know
what destiny should to him betide,
the Oracle did showe
That he should cause his fathers death,
which sentence when he heard
Desyrous for to shun the same,
with speede himselfe prepared,
To go and dwell at Camiros,
which towne in Rodes south lands
But that which God pretendeth,
no Creature may withstande:
For after in a little space,
Cartareus for to see,
His sonne desyring very much,
such luckelesse lotte had hee,
That he by might at Camiros,
arriued on this sorte,
But with the there inhabitaunts,
as wighters doe reporte,
His men then falling at debate,
whereby a tumult rose,

In which was Altamenes then,
to cattle his treble woes,
And slue his Father vnawares,
which when he vnderstoode,
Ashamed sore, and halfe dismayde,
he went with heauy moode,
To wander in the wildernesse,
and daungerous desertes wide,
where after many pittious plaintes,
at last for dole he dide.

Finis.

The Authour writeth this in commendation of his mistresse.

YOu Ladyes now leaue of your strife,
For Golden fruicte without delay,
And thou that art Vulcanus wife,
resigne the same with speede I say,
To mistresse mine, that doth deserue,
for to possesse the same by right,
From this my best seeme not to swerue,
Least thou be forst in open sight
Perforce to yeeld it vnto her,
and so be put to open shame,
Let not thy Godhead make thee erre,
If thou wilt shun all blot and blame,
It is not all thy glory great,
Nor yet thy sonne Cupido he,
That makes thee so with pryde repleate,
Or else thy fathers high degree,
That may my mistresse once distaine
In any point, who doth thee paine
As farre as Golde doth copper passe,
Or perfect Emrod brittle glasse.

As

As farre as Phebus doth surmount,
The starre that lendes least light of all,
Above thy reache then doe not mount,
Least thou receaue the greater fall,
To her good Grisell may giue place,
Though great her pacience were in deede,
And constant Constance in like case,
For Constance doth them both exceede,
Her name and deedes so well agree,
That they doe varry in no thing,
In sooth it is a ioye to see,
The vertues that from her doe spring.
I know when she meete time shall see;
On any one to fyxe her harte,
She will like chaste Penelope,
Continue his till life depart,
That flattering wordes or fyled phrase,
Or golden giftes, or greedy gaine,
Her constant mind shall neuer raise.
Or make her chaunge her former traine.
That ballyaunt deedes done for her sake,
Nor fetured forme, nor fine deuice,
Shall cause her flye from chosen make.
Or to fond folly her intice;
That neither Fortune good nor bad,
Nor store of wealth nor woefull waste,
Nor smyling cheare, nor countinaunce sad,
Nor absence shall oblision plante.
That neither threats nor lowring lookes,
Nor dread of daunger shall her draw,
From him whom fyrst for friend shee takes,
No man may keepe her so in awe.
No greefe can gripe her hart so sore.
No paine can pinche her so, that she
will leaue her faithfull friend therefore,
How base of byrth so eare he bee.

Though

Though this I haue not yet beene proude,
I am right sure it will be so,
For neuer saw I her mouth vnmouande,
with trifling tales for friends nor foe,
That she would take in hande the thing,
which was contrary deeme to right,
but euen as vnder heauens king,
She had bine trained her seruice to fight,
Thrise happy therefore shall he bee,
Whose happe shall be so good to get.
This precious Jewell franke and free,
That will by him so highly set.
And will not any quaintnesses,
The duty of a louing wife,
but please his minde in eche respecte,
Still studying to inlarge his lyfe.
And blest am I aboue the rest,
That haue obtainde to be her man,
who purpose still to vse my best,
To please her mind in all I can.

Finis.

An Exhortation to Pacience.

When griping greefes do greeue the minde,
The meetest meanes that men may finde,
which God and nature hath allotted,
Is pacience well applyde:
For pacience puts all paine to flight,
Yea pacience makes the heart delight,
And doth reuiue eche dulled spright,
by reasons rule and guyde.
For euery sore, a salue it is,
It turnes all bitter hate to blisse,
And he that hath it, shall not misse.

To

To talk of heauenly ioyes.
Through it the miser likes his lyfe,
Through it he hydes his brawling wife,
Through it he flies all hate and stryfe,
And nothing him anpyes.
Through it he suffers false reportes,
And loathes to liue in lawlesse Courtes,
Yea patience dayly him exhortes,
To hold himselfe content:
And though his happe be good or ill,
Yet being armde with patience still,
To euill once he shall fulfill,
But be to be the best.
Therefore for patience let vs pray,
To driue all drowsy dumpes away,
That euery howre doth vs annoy,
Through froward frowning fate,
For here we are on euery syde,
Not knowing lately where to byde,
And therefore lacke so good a guyde,
To better our estate.
God graunt vs euer of his grace,
That perfect patience to imbrace,
We may be moude in euery case,
And lyue all fatious ye.
Let patience put vs still in mynde,
And make vs hope good hap to synde,
When moste with cares we are combynde,
To kindle good delyte.

Finis.

A Louer writing to his chosen friend, who for his sake susteyned much sorrow, exhorteth her to continue constant, and paciently to tollerate her present aduersity in hope that better happes will insue.

MIne owne good Pamena, when on the one syde I consyder with my selfe, thy incomparable curtesy, in requiting my faithfull and vnfained affection with the lyke, and graunting me principall possession of thy harte, and on the other side remembring the sorrow thou sustainest, through ỳ vnnatural dealing of such vnder shew of friendship, intende nothing but fraude.

And therewithall waying my vnhabillity at this present, which will not serue to prouide for thee as I would, my ioy, for inioying thee that arte my onelye solace is not halfe so great, as my griefes are greuous for the sorrowe thou sustainest, but for as much as pacience as Cicero saith, is such a vertue as it consumeth the beame, reioyceth the sad, contenteth the poore, helpeth the sick, easeth the payne full, and hurteth none, but helpeth all, I exhorte you to imbrace it, and to the vttermost of your power to vse it, comforting your self in this calamitie, with assured hope, that after these harde happes, will follow a more blissefull and quiet estate, considering the mutabilitie of Fortune to be such, that she neuer standeth long at one stay, but as after a moste terrible storme, alwaies insueth a more pleasannt calme, so she seeming most extreme, will on the sodaine wax moste fauourable, as appeareth by the Example of one Adulatia Daughter to Otho, the thyrde Emperour of that name, who fixing her fancy vpon one Aleran, a Gentleman of small accompte, and the yongest of all the brethren

therein of the Duke of Saxony, who lykewyse loued her intyrely, leste her father, frendes and countrey, for his sake, and wandring with him, vnto whome she wholy committed her selfe, into places vnknown, and in the way as they fled, being taken and spoyled by theeues, and robbers, and afterwardes, forced for extreame neede, to make coles, and sell them for their owne sustenaunce, pacientlye suffering that miserable aduersity, and comforting themselues with hope of better happe in time to come, in the ende by Gods prouidence, and the valyaunce of their yong Sonne, who by that meanes was made knowen to his Grandfather Otho, they were returned from that miserable estate, aduanced to high dignity, and made heyres to the Empyre.

By this worthy Example, it appeareth howe carefull God is in the preseruation of those, that pacientlye suffering aduersity, doe put their whole trust and confidence in him, nothing at all diffayding of his mercy, but hoping by his holy meanes to be deliuered from all their callamity, which howe he will not leaue frustrate and though he suffer their ill affection so to be afflicted, yet will he not giue them ouer, but in the end, when they least looke for it, will to their great ioy and comfort, bring them to a more happy and blissefull state, as he did the good Earle of Engers, and many other that pacientlye suffered the Crosse that god had lay'd vpon them, and reposed their whole trust in his mercy, which neuer fayleth the faithfull.

By this Historye of Adulatia wee are also admonished faithfully to loue, when promise is plighted, and neither for pleasure nor paine, for ioye nor anoy, for welth nor wo, for force nor feare, for fraude nor flattery, for friend nor foe in prosperitie or aduersitie, to alter our fyxte fyxme and faithfull determination, or forsake whome wee haue once chosen, so long as life lasteth, but constantlye to continue, and faithfully to perseuer in the same so shal God blesse vs and prosper all our doinges, and after the mistes of misery if any happen to assaile vs, bring vs to the cleare lighte of

The Aucthour wrighting to a friend of his, that was toward marriage, exhorteth her to make choyse of a wyse and vertuous person.

THere is nothing wherein we ought to take
So great advise, as when we minde marriage for to make,
wherein we must be carefull and precise,
Or else thereby great perill may ensue,
Because the knot once tyed in order due
May not be broken, how ever chaunce betide,
But some there are, that spill wythout respect
Of future harmes that may to them befall,
The councell of their aged friendes neglect,
As frantick wightes, to follish fancy thrall
And harkening to the sensuall lust of will
Procure thereby, their owne and deare,
where else they might have lyndes in lasting joy.
Yet would I not that men should stand
To friendes advice, or follow their
That fancy first doth cause, but wyse friend
They should forsake the same for feare or dread.
For so they may soone bring a foole to bed,
And being linckt, maude they cannot lacke,
Some sortes there are, that for the vertuous shape,
Because they should be vertuous in life and haue,
Some sortes there are, that ryches all refuse
A comely wight desyring most to haue,
A vallyaunt venterous youth, some lady loues,
Some like of those that be most frende and free,

And some of those that harde and sparing be,
The gallant gay some chiefely doe esteeme,
In one that curteous is, some moste delight,
A cunning crafts man, some for best do deeme,
But few or none esteeme the vertuous wight,
By wise and prudent men they set but light.
Few linke for love, but all for greedy gaine,
Though in the ende it tourne them most to paine.

Bewty doth fade, when crooked age creepes in,
And like a Flower the lustinesse season past,
Nipt with the cold when winter doth begin,
Doth wither soone, and weare a way at last,
And sickenesse makes the mighty man agast,
And takes from him all strength and courage quighte,
But vertue still abides in perfect plighte.

In welth or wo in pleasure or in ill,
Vertue remaines without exyles at all,
Not dreadfull death that doth the Carcas kill,
The power of vertue may in ought appall.
It lives with praise, and never perishe shall,
For after death his glory redeth rife.
That whilst he lived, did leade a vertuous life.

Therefore my friend I friendly thee advise,
To match with one that is in vertue bent,
For bewty brittle is, and of no price,
Money but muck, and quickly will be spent,
Strength soone decayes, if sickenesse be consent,
But vertue still in perfect state doth stand,
It keepes his course as well by sea as land.

Moreover I would have thee for to make,
Thy choyse thy selfe wherein thou likest best,

And

And though thy friendes perſwade thee for to take,
Some other wight with greater wealth poſſeſt.
Yet if thy mind and fancy be not preſt,
To like of him, then would I thee adviſe,
To leaue that loathſome lot it ſhould be wiſe.

For whereas loue doth lacke, twixt man and wife,
There hatred needes muſt harbour in their hart.
Where hatred hath his holde, is endleſſe ſtrife,
where ſtryfe is ſtyrde, there pleaſure hath no part,
where pleaſure is diſplaſde, care keepes the marte,
where care doth keepe, lyfe cannot long indure,
Then eare thou linke let loue be loued ſure.

Finis.

Of the great patience and clemency of King Antigonus.

When as Antigonus did heare,
His Souldiers curſing him apace,
Becauſe that in an euening darke,
He led them through a myry place,
That thence they hardly could eſcape,
He came himſelfe to them vnknowne,
And very well did helpe them out,
which friendſhip when he had them ſhowne,
He layd now curſe Antigonus,
That led you lately in the myre,
But pray for him that helpt you out,
Accoarding to your harts deſyre.

Finis.

What

What misery and misfortunes mankinde is continually subiecte vnto.

WHat kinde of fancies any choose,
but he therein shall fynde,
Great bitternesse and endles woes,
to moone his troubled minde,
In field much toyle, at home great care,
and feare in forrain Lande:
If ought we haue, by fortune lent.
In youth Home, Follyes hande
Doth hold vs fast, in the vnbeare,
and wisedomes loze do leane,
In age doth sickenesse vs assayle,
and so our strength bereaue.
In marryage is vnquietnesse,
in lacking of a wife.
All solitary we remaine,
and leade a loathsome lyfe.
If God to vs doe children sende,
we haue continuall care.
If none, then are we halfe dismayde,
farre worser doe we fare.
Therefore one of these twaine is best,
desyred for to be:
Not to be borne, or else to dye,
before these dayes weare.

Finis.

A louer hauing long concealed his loue, at the last reuealeth it and craueth grace at the handes of his beloued maistresse.

LIke as the silly soule,
That feeles himself distrest,

With

With heauy burthen on his backe,
doth seeke to be at rest.
So I whome loue long tyme,
hath led in Captiue bandes,
Enforced am at last to sue
for fauour at thy handes,
That hast my hart in holde,
who onely mayst apply,
Some pleasaunt potion to asswage
the greeuous mallady,
Which long with little ease,
and most incessaunt greese.
Hath me consumde betwixt life and death,
denoyde of all releese.
But needes I must confesse,
There is no fault in thee:
That I doe want my wished wull,
the blame doth bide in mee.
For feare, Loues mortall foe,
which caused me to hyde
My secrete sorrowes long sustainde,
from thee in whome doth byde,
The cure of all my care,
hath made me faile to finde,
The thing that most might ioy my hart,
and ease my troubled minde.
But now all feare expulst,
Loue, hope, and boldnesse bolde,
Hath forced me in lieu of paine,
to craue deserued hyre,
Which giue you eyther greeuous,
else shall you shortly see,
That life will leaue my loathsome corpes,
and all by meanes of thee,
Which loth I am should chaunce,
least to thy great reproth,

It blazed be, that thou are the
that set my bale abroche,
Take pitty on my payne,
peruse my dolefull hearse.
Let trickling teares and secret sighes,
into thy intrailes pearce.
Oh rue my rufull state,
my youthfull yeares respect,
And let the torments I sustaine,
enforce thee to relect
All retchlesse rigour, take, imbrace,
loue, like, and neuer leaue.
The wight that will in spight of spight,
to thee for euer cleaue.
Who heare in lew of loue,
doth vow himselfe to thee,
Thy slaue, thy seruaunt, and thy friend,
till dying day to be.

Finis.

Certaine verses written in commendation of the Rose.

As sundry sortes of men in world there be,
So sundry mindes in them also remayne,
And in one point they seldome do agree,
That one thinkes good, another doth disdayne,
That one delyres, another doth despise,
And I that doe in Flowers great pleasure take,
Delyre the Rose, my nosegay sweete to make.

The vallyaunt man doth most delight in warre,
The coward craues to liue at home in peace,
The astronomer to view each euening starre,
The couetous carle his substaunce to increase,

The

The prisoner poze doth comet most release.
Wes I that doe in Flowers greate pleasure take,
Delyze the Rose my nolegay sweete to make.

The husbandman full barnes delyze to haue,
The Faulkener doth in Faulcon most delight,
The Hunter he good hounds doth chiefely craue,
The wrighte man reioiceth in his might,
The amorous Delyze to shew her heart height,
But I that doe in Flowers great pleasure take,
Delyze the Rose my nolegay sweete to make.

The pretty flowers for colour I commend,
Though in the same no sweetenesse resteth at all,
From Basill doth a sauour sweete ascend,
yet doth the same the senses sore appall,
The appetite is marred much withall.
Therefore doe I, in Flowers that pleasure take,
Delyze the Rose my Nolegay sweete to make.

Distild it makes a water wondrous sweete,
Of vertue great and good for many things,
The style thereof, full many thinke most meete,
Because much ease to them it often bringes,
The Flower is worne of Ladyes Lordes and Kinges,
And I that doe in Flowers a great pleasure take,
Delyze the Rose my Nolegay sweete to make.

From point to point, to praise this pleasant Flower
And preach it that it doth deserue by right,
For learnings lacke it lyes not in my power,
Therefore to them that better can indight,
I leaue the same to put in perfect plight,
But still I will in Flowers that pleasure take,
Delyze the Rose my nolegay sweete to make.

Finis.

The Louer after long absence hauing a new exhibicion,
by beholding the beauty of his beloued mistresse,
sueth vnto her for grace, for the appea-
sing of his passyons.

VVHether it were by any good or euil aduenture, that of late I beheld ye, I know not, but surely as the same time, I perceiued in you the rare beawty and other excellent Ornamentes of nature, wherewith you are moste plentifully inriched, as euer I suffered in my selfe, so cruell and continuall a Combate, as I feare me without your speciall grace and fauour, for furtherance of my feruent desyre, I shall not be able long to endure, one of the one syde allayeth me, reason on the other syde withdraweth me, Hope pricketh me forward, and fayre pulleth me back from attempting that whiche maye either reuiue my lyfe, or restore me to my eye, according to the good or euill succesle that it hath.

But loue at the last vanquishing reason, and hope abandoning feare, ebe rather by meanes of the good intertein-ment, friendly familiarity, and vnaccustomed curtesy, which I haue hitherto found in you, I am the more imboldned by these few lynes, to make you priuy to my passions, which I continually suffer for your sake, thereby to cast my hande of the greefes that grow by concealing it, and to purchase remedy for the greeuous maladye that putteth me to suche impoztable paine, which being only in you to graunte, I hope you will not be so cruell hauing as to denye me it. For as my loue towardes you, farre excelleth all others, and as my faithfull seruice, and true intent deserueth better recompence, then a false and rigorous refusall. So am I fully perswaded to find your pitifull hart ready to rue my calamities, and with the balme of your benewolence, saluing the sore that so afflicteth me, render me a recompence worthy my deseruing, wherein referring my selfe

wholy

wholy to your clemency I leaue to trouble you any further for this time.

Of a Souldyer who for couitousnesse of a little money, lost his owne lyfe.

When Preneſt had bine long beſtrende
by enemyes ſtrength,
with hunger and thirſt ſhee were full ſore,
oppreſt at length.
That many a one for lack of foode,
was forſt to dye.
Amongſt which ſort there then was one,
did lykewiſe lye,
As did the reſt in extreame payne,
vntill he caught,
A little ſponſe, which one of him,
for money bought.
A hundred pence he more eſtremde,
then lyfe to ſaue,
Although long time the lack thereof,
he might not haue.
So couitous was this ruthers mynde,
of worldly muck,
That when he might haue ſaude his lyfe,
ſuch was his luck,
For lone of money he loſt the ſame,
but was not he,
Requited with a iuſt reward,
as he ſhould be.

Finis.

The

The complaint of one Sidalpo, who was inflamed with loue through the bewty of his seruaunt Aletha.

O Lothsome lyfe, my liuing fate,
Oh Fortune most vnkinde,
Oh death come pierce my painfull spell,
to ease my troubled minde.
Oh loue, nay lust, oh fonde delyte,
oh cursed blinded boye,
What meanst thou thus to wrythe my hed,
and bredde my great annoy,
I burne alas continually,
in such excelline heate,
That nothing may therewith compare,
it semes to me so great,
More hote it is a thousand times,
then Lothsome Limbo lake,
Or Ætna hill, whose flaming flames,
no thing hath power to slake,
And yet some time more cold then yse,
I am poore wretch againe,
Then by and by aboundantly,
the raging herte doth raine,
Whereas I was a mayster late,
and had eche thing at will,
Now must I serue as seruill slaue,
to please my seruaunt still,
What remedy, it boteth not
for me at all to strine,
Against the mighty power of loue,
of any man alyue,
The Prince for all his princely power,
cannot his force withstand.

The

The valyauntest wight that euer liude
durst not hold vp his hand,
Against Cupido loz to striue,
oz combat loz to make,
The wiliest can not shun his wiles,
he causeth all to quake,
yea euen the Gods themselues I finde,
doe rest at Cupids grace,
And be but subiectes vnto him,
in euery kinde of case,
Then how should I a mortall man,
deuise to shunne the same,
How dare I once relish the wiyle
that euery thing can tayne,
Aletha oh my darling deare,
thou thou s lone art she
which so hast laid thy snares aboade
loz to intangle me.
Thou art the dame that I desyze,
to serue and honour still,
Thou art the iewell of my ioy,
thou maist me saue oz spill.
But stay what wordes be these I speake,
shall I become a slaue,
And bondman to my seruaunt so,
her fauour shall I craue,
That should by reason still remaine,
at my desyze and will,
To doe the thing that I commaund,
though it be good oz ill.
No no I rather fyzst will choose,
vnto the naked knyfe
My throte to yeld, that so I might,
bereaue my lothsome lyfe,
What if I should attempt the same,
what if I should requyze,

The same of her, I am full fayne,
to purchase my desyre,
But why doe I mistrust the same,
before I haue it tryde,
why he that loueth fernestly,
feares not to be denyde,
why should I any daungers dreade,
to winne so fayre a dame,
well hoping for to gaine some grace,
my letters will I frame.
In dolefull wyse vnto my sweete,
whose splendent bewty rare,
Hath so inflamde my hart with loue,
and cloyde my mynde with care,

A Letter which the said Sidaspo sent to his seruaunt Alecha.

THy bewty braue O Alecha,
thy brestes like driuen snow,
Thy Turrall lippes, thy cristall eyes,
and heare which to the show,
Appeares lyke gold thy fingers small,
with skinne as yuorye cleare,
And eake thy worthy qualities,
which make thee to appeare.
More lyke a Goddesse for to be,
then any earthly wight,
would sure allure a stonye harte,
in thee to haue delight.
For as the Fowler in his nee,
the silly byrdes doth take,
So hath the same intrapped me,
which makes my hart to quake,
The Adamant stone would neuer drawe,
the yron to it more.

Then

Then hath your beawty drawne my hart,
which makes me now deplore,
For loue of you I liue in care,
my sorrowes doe abound,
And death will shortly end my dayes,
if helpe there none be found.
By you I haue receaued this harme,
which none but you can cure;
In you it restes to ease the paine,
that I doe now indure.
Therefore I craue you, shew some grace,
to cure me of my greefe,
Let pittie in your hart take place,
to bring me some releefe,
Oh who is able to resist,
the fervent force of loue,
Or who once wounded with the darte,
is able to remoue
The same from him, now surely none,
though Hectors hart he haue,
Or Hercules strength it will not serue,
from Cupid him to saue.
Therefore O louing Lady deare,
bowe downe thy eyes of pittie,
Consider in thy skilfull braine,
that art both wise and wittye
What torments for thy sake I byde,
which by no meanes will cease.
Way well how like a wretch I liue,
till thou doe me release.
By graunting me my hartes desyre,
to cure my deadly smart,
whereby no harme may grow to thee,
but all to ioye conuart,
My lyfe my goods and all thinges else,
shall rest at thy desyre,

Euen as thy owne at euery time,
if thou the same requyre:
Let reason therefore O my deare,
perswade thee for to yeelde,
To my request by meanes thereof,
from sorrowes me to shield,
Thus for this time I make an ende,
and wish thee well to fare,
In wofull wise, desyring thee,
to thinke vpon my care.

Finis

The abiect Louer complaineth of the cruelty and disdainefull lookes of his Lady.

THe moste incessaunt painefull panges,
that I haue long sustainde:
By sundry meanes my feeble hande,
to write hath now constrainde.
Thereby to let thee vnderstande,
oh stony harted Dame,
The thing that this my dolefull hart,
(to thy eternall shame)
Cannot conceale, and seeing that
thou rather seekst to be,
My mortall foe, then faithfull friend,
I doe the like by thee,
If (as I am) thou were a man,
then weapons would I vse,
For to reuenge my wrong on thee,
that doest me so abuse,
But sith the tongue the weapon is,
wherewith fond women fight,
My tongue and pen shall now suffice,
to worke the lyke despight,

who

Who striues against the streame I see,
or sailes against the winde.
Or soweth seede in barren soyle,
but little gaine shall fynde,
So he that sets his loue,
where pryde hath taken place,
shall sooner catch his bitter bane,
then winne one sparke of grace,
As I vnto my paine,
haue proude to late alas
By seruing thee, oh scorneful dame,
that nought therefore doest passe.
For when by letters I,
my meaning doe declare,
Thy annswere seemes as bitter gall,
for to increase my care,
When as I smyle, thou frowneſt,
and eake when I am sad,
Then greatly seemst thou to reioyce,
as one whose hart is glad.
If I doe thee salute
in friendly wise, I see
Thou turnest then thy head aside,
and windste away from me,
The Tyger fierce in tyme,
is made both meeke and tame.
The stone through often drops of raine,
that fall vpon the same,
Doth weare, the mountaines hye,
and strongest holds of all,
In tyme may by some casualty,
be forst to ground to fall,
Yea Nilus may in time,
(for all his scope of streames)
Be dryed vp, and cleane consumde,
through heate of Phebus beames,

There is no thing on earth I thinke,
but may in tyme conuart :
Except it be in womans brest,
a hawty stubborne harte.
Which neither reason, gentle wordes
nor pittie can procure,
For to reuoke hir wilfull minde.
that setled is so sure,
My wound was wondrous deepe,
the paines I did indure,
By meanes of thy great crueltie,
my sorrowes did procure.
For thou in whome it onely lay,
to remedy the same,
In steede of salue did'st poyson yielde,
my ruine for to frame,
Oh curled wretchlesse race,
of wicked woman kinde,
How can your hartes so cruell be,
to them that you make blynde,
what hart of flint hath he,
who hauing hurt a man,
That is his friend, to cure his payne,
will not doe what he can.
But thou a cruell Crocadile,
Ingendred in the floode,
Of foule Onilus will nor graunt,
to doe thy pacient good.
Few women at this day be tyme,
that guyde themselues so well,
But if one vertue good there be,
which in their brest doth dwell,
Two worser vices for the same,
is found in them to be,
which doe the vertues cleane deface,
and force them for to flee,

They

They can condicions chaunge,
to cause their friendes vnrest,
As the Chameleon chaungeth hue,
When as it likes him best,
If that they be disposde,
poze louers to allure,
They can as wily wayes inuent,
their purpose to procure,
As the Hiena can,
by learning of the name,
And calling them whose present death,
they purpose for to frame,
Such pittifull complaintes,
the Sirens can not make,
As can these wicked women doe,
if once they vndertake,
No beast so brute as they,
if once they fall to vice,
No asse more foolish then they are,
yet doe they thinke them wise,
If one their bewty praise,
then doe they looke so hye,
As though they straighte wais would presume
to scale the lofty skye.
Yet doe I not condemne herein,
all women to be ill,
But some yea euen the greatest part,
are subiect to their will,
As I haue had iust cause to say,
who proued haue the same,
Through thy vnkindnesse shewde to me,
O most disdainefull Dame,
And therefore humbly doe I craue,
of heauenly Ioue aboue.
That thou for this thy crueltye,
like greefe to myne maist proue,

I.iij. And

And thus I make an ende as now,
of this my bitter yearle,
As one compeld by womans wyde,
their dealinges to rehearse.

Finis.

A commendation of the Cocke.

WHo can such worthy prayses giue,
vnto the Cocke as he,
Deserues to haue, now surely none,
for fyrst of all we see,
How carefull of our healthes he is,
who least we should be harmde,
At midnight with his crowing oft,
doth warne vs to be armde,
And at the dawning of the day,
to lerify our minde.
He doth the lyke, and biddeth vs,
good morrow in his kinde,
Againe were not the Cock I pray,
what Poultrie should we haue,
What other kynde of pleasaunt foule,
that we so much doe craue,
Our dainty Dames should be content
to feede on courser fare,
If that it were not for the Cock,
that dainties doth prepare.

A commendacion of the Robin redde brest.

WHen Hyems with his hory frostes,
and blustering Boreas blaste,
Had runne his race, and Lady Ver,
his pleasaunt course had past,

Then

Then Æstas entred in by course,
and Phebus golden rates,
whose scorching heate mild Zephirus,
allwagde at all assayes,
were spread abroade through every coste,
which causde eche thing to ioye,
Then was it pleasure great to see,
the little Fishes play,
And frisoes fetch about the bankes,
to fynde some pleasaunt baite,
whiles they vnwares intangled are.
by Fishers foule deceite,
Then every tree is fresh and greene,
then Flora on the ground,
Her mantell spreades, and fertill fieldes,
with pleasaunt Flowers abound.
The dainty Dames from every place,
doe thither fast resorte,
And Garlandes make of cropped flowers,
of sundry sent and sorte.
In every streete great stirring is,
some quaffe and make good cheare.
Some leape, some daunce, some sing, some play
some chase the light foote Deare,
Here Orpheus with his pleasaunt Harpe,
there Amphion with his Lute,
Doe make moste pleasaunt melodie,
and carping cares confute,
The amorous youthes doe stray the streetes,
and with their Ladies walke.
And some againe doe passe the day,
with passing pleasaunt talke.
So every man to please his minde.
some pastime doth frequent,
To drive away all drowsy dumpes,
and sluggish sloth preuent.

It chaunced so this time,
that as in bed I lay,
Oppressed sore with painefull pangs,
about the breake of day
I started vp, and forth I walkte,
into the fieldes so fayre,
My selfe to solace there at will,
and take the pleasaunt ayre,
The ground that garnisht was with flowers,
did yield so sweete a smell,
That noysome sauoures none were felt,
It did them all repell,
Then past I forth with stealing steps,
and lookte about me round,
To take a view of euery thing,
wherein I pleasure found.
And by and by from farre me thought,
I seemde a sounde to heare,
which still the further that I past,
more pleasaunt did appeare,
It was so sweete a melody,
that sure I thought some muse,
Or else some other heauenly wight,
did there frequent and vse.
But as I cast mine eye aside,
on braunche of willow tree,
A little Robin redbrest then,
there sitting did I see,
And he it was, and none but he,
that did so sweetely sing.
But sure in all my life before,
I neuer harde the thing,
That did so much delight my hart,
or causde me so to ioye,
As did that little Robins song,
that there I hard that day,

The

That did so much delight my harte,
or causde me so to ioye,
As did that little Robins song,
that there I heard that day.
The Poets faine that Orpheus made,
both stones and trees to daunce,
When he vppon his Harpe did play,
They also doe aduaunce
So muche Arion for his skill,
that when into the seas
He should be cast they said that he,
a Dolphin so did please,
That safe she brought him into shore,
when death he did aspect,
And from all perils perilous,
did him right well protect,
Mercurius made the hundred eyes,
of Argos all to sleepe,
with playing on his Pan pipe,
his knowledge was so deepe,
yet sure I thinke their harmonie,
might not equall bee
with that this little Robin made,
it so delighted mee.
Nay sure I thinke the Muses nyne,
may not with him compare,
Nor yet Apollo for his skill,
whose musick was so rare.
Full often times my hart doth wishe,
this prety byrd to haue,
For more then any worldly thing,
the same I still doe crane.
And if my luck might be so good,
this Robin once to gaine.
Then greatly would my ioyes abound,
and hart should feele no paine.

For neuer did I see the thing,
that I so well could leeke,
Therefore aboue all other thinges,
to haue the same I seeke,
For colour and for semlinesse,
all bydes he doth surmounte,
His flesh as very delicate,
full many men accounpt,
God graunt therefore that I may gaine,
this Robin at my will.
Then doe I hope to vse him so,
that he shall tarry still.
For rather would I lose my lyfe,
and all thinges else beside,
Then from my Robin I woulde parte,
at any time or tide.

Finis.

The long acquainted Louer, writeth to his beloued, whose grace he desyred.

LIke as no fyre doth yeld so great a heate,
As that which longest lyes in kindling this is sure,
So can no loue so vehemente be and great,
As that which doth the longest time indure,
For why the fyre that lyght and by doth flame,
Is straight consumde, that none may see the same.

Euen so the loue that on a sodaine growes,
Doth straight wayes waste, and vanish as a shade,
As very well this auncient Prouerbe showes.
whose loue soone colde, and soone away doth fade,
But as a tonne doth still the taste retaine,
Of that which fyrst did in the same remaine,

So I my deare whose loue in tender age,
Hath taken roote cannot the same suppresse,

Or else the greete thereof by skillesswage,
For if I can by no meane a lyue restalle,
But as your thrall I rest in woefull case,
Expecting still with great desyre some grace.

Oh Lady deare doe not therefore disdaine,
The humble sute of him that loues you best,
but arme your selfe to shew the lyke againe,
For otherwise you breede his great vnrest,
Forget not my good will thinke on your friend,
And thus with teares my humble sute I ende.

Finis.

Of one Vrbina a Virgin vestall, taken in adultery.

VRbina a Virgin vestall in aduitry being taken,
with roddes about the cittie was whipped therefore,
And of all her friendes then being forsaken,
was buried aliue, whome none did deplore,
And of the Adulterers that did her deflower,
The one did slay himselfe that present hower,
The other the ouerseeers of the temple then,
Caused to be executed in the market place,
That he might be a warning to all other men,
To teach them the path of vertue to trace.

Finis.

Of one Cianippus, who in his dronkennesse deflowred his owne daughter ciane.

OF Siracuse cianip
Because that he did offer,
His Sacrifise to all the Gods.
and none to Bachus proffer,
was stroke with such a drunckennesse,
that meeting in the darke,
His Daughter Ciane, her deflourde,
but what did follow marke.

She to the end to vnderstand,
and know who did the deede,
From of his finger plucke his ring,
whereby she knew with speede,
That it had beene her Father deare,
and after when the Citty,
was plagued all for his foule fact,
and that by diuerse wittie,
Of th'oracle it willed was,
the Author of the act,
For to be latetated vp,
for this foule filthy fact,
whereas none knew who it should be,
or what did cause the same,
Ciane with armed mind,
reuenging her owne shame,
Her Fathers wrath, who being dead
herselfe she also slew,
And on his corpse she couples lay,
for euer more vnto.

Finis.

Of one Celelius Bassus a Carthaginian, who deceiued the Emperour Nero.

CEselius Bassus on a time,
vnto king Nero tolde,
That in a Cane within his ground,
was hid great heapes of Golde,
which he (he sayd) suppolde to be,
of Didos hiding there,
Vnto which wordes he eare did giue,
and from that place to beare,
The same, he did full many send,
the Orators in meane space,

Finis.

The Lover wearied with long loue making,

Lady to ſuppreſſe

the great enormities wherewith it is afflicted, I am now constrained (after long sufferance) to let you have to vnderstand the ardent desyre which dyuerse and in the vnmatchable vse, as may plainely appeare by many manifest causes, which shewe sufficient testimonye of my true intente: wherein I thinke not that I haue bene vrged hetherto as all aduentures, or without some hope and assurance that I haue, in time to obtaine that which by the liberall helpe of your accustomed clemencye (hauing mee suche opportunitye as should well content me, assuring my selfe, that from a thing of such excellency as is your sacredly selfe (in whome besides your diuine beawty there are assembled many good graces and heroicall vertuesse that they doe surpasse any other but a sincere and good inclination) will emanate alwaies in all thinges the gentlenesse of gentrous humanitye, moueking him to appeare pitifull in deede and woorde, and redye to impart his liberall fauours to all those that crane it, and by their good behauiour doe deserue it. This allso geldeth some satisfactio to my vnquiet mind, that my vnquiet which were of late restrained, haue nowe found free issue, whereby I receyue helpe of your humour, whilst I yet feele in my selfe sufficiente habilitye to receiue it, assuring you that it will be to late for so small a benefit, if you delay the time to let me inioy the effecte of your friendly fauour, whereof being very desyrous, I abide your curteous answere, with assured hope that your gentle will be to accept me for your humble seruant, that so long as any sparke of lyfe remaineth in mee, haue vowed my selfe to your seruice, and cannot but accounte you for my onely mistresse. Assure your selfe that before that lyfe may not long indure, if any vnlooked for deniye doe denye me the fauour to shewe your selfe agreeable to my affectionate desyre.

Finis.

The

The Louer hauing long time loued a fayre Gentlewoman, at whose handes he had receiued small hope of obtaining his purpose, writeth vnto her as followeth.

TO vse any long discourse my dearely beloued Parmenia, in the declaration of my great good will and feruent affection towardes you, I coumpte it but frustous, seeing I am well assured that you haue long since perceyued, and from time to time made perfect tryall of my true loue towardes you: yet to the ende to vnderstande that I haue hitherto receiued fro you, as I could not assure my self of any further fauour at your handes, then he that hath neuer deserued any at all, and as it is the propertie of all those that loue faithfully to feare the worst, so doe I many times suppose that although my greate euill deserte, by the fatal vnkindnesse of some false vnkinde mistres, I shalbe depriued of that comforte which both more contente me then the Conquest of a whole kingdome: wherefore being greatly greeued with the vncertaintie of my present estate, by meanes of y vnstedfastnesse, that many times I find to be in you, not able any longer to sustain the torments that it putteth me vnto, I haue thought good to write these few woordes vnto you most humbly beseeching you to dissolue me of this doubt without delay that if I finde not your aunswere agreeable with my desyre I may settle it I can to suppresse the feruente affection that is nowe so deepelye rooted in my harte, as I feare me I shall hardlye remoue it.

Doe this my good Parmenia, and feare not anye inconuenience that may growe thereby.

For, I hope that by graunting mee youre friendlye fauoure, you shall haue no cause to repente you of any thing that shall happen vnto you vpon it be because you haue

haue so long lacked the company of so comfortable a com-
panyon, by whose meanes with the helpe of God you shal
not only be deliuered of your long and grieuous sickenes,
which cannot be otherwise cured, but also leauing the life
that now you leade, be out of all daunger of your malicious E-
nemies, that with their subtile and secret dealing doe dayly
vndeseruedly deuise to doe you displeasure, and withall
purchase to your selfe so faithfull a friend as (by na-
ture) will neuer forsake you, but also his diligente
& careful industry to prouide for your maintenance, which
ueede I hope shall neuer happen hereafter, howsoeuer
you esteeme my welfare. Loue as he, for I know there is no
thing so difficult, but the loue of a friend will be willing to
suffer, such power it hath ouer the mind. Comfort your selfe with this assu-
red hope, that God will neuer suffer them to perish that
put their trust in him.

Thus much (my good Lucretia) I haue thought good
to write vnto you, desiring (notwithstanding the
crime of loue) to receiue answere hereof from you in speed.
I pray you consider it aduisedly, that I may know your
resolute answere therein. And so farewell.

The Lover hauing compiled a resolute answere to the
former, deliuered, weigheth to his beloued Mistresse in
this manner wherein he perswadeth her
to pitie his passions.

THe poore miserable wretch that hath long continued in
captiuity, and knoweth not what shall become of him,
cannot be more troubled in minde, or tossed with more in-
tollerable torments to increase his calamity then I am
at this present, for feare to finde your answere contrarye
to my expectation. And surelye were it not that I knowe
your clemency to be such as cannot with cruelty counter-
vaile the courtesy of so faithful a friend as I haue euer
bene towardes you, I

would

should long since rather haue bereaued my lyfe to proue my loyaltie, then by attending the dreadful sentence of my condemnation, be adiudged to dye without deserte, by her whose welfare I haue preferred, before all worldly Treasure.

The law of nature bindeth you to bend most to him that loueth you best, and byddeth most sorrowe for your sake. Iustice also inioyneth you to render to euery one his right which if you performe accordingly, as you must needes do if you desyre to be demed worthye of the estimation which belongeth to such a one as you are, I doubt not but I shal receiue from you that comfort which I haue long tyme couited, I meane your friendlye fauour and stedfast constancie in loue, to knit with me the knot of perpetuall amitye, as with him that for his loyall loue, hath aboue all other best deserued it, and desyreth rather to dy, then liue and lack it.

The tragedy of Meliager, sonne to Oeneus King of Calcedonia.

PArthaons sonne, Oeneus King
of calcedonia lande,
To all the Gods did institute,
and offer with his hande,
His sacrifise saue onelye to
Diana dyde, whome he
For hatred or forgetfulnes
remitted, wherewith shee
Full greatly greeude, a huge great Bore,
did send to waste the lande,
That made much spoyle in many a place,
and no man might withstand,
Untill Oeneus at the last,
in mind oppresst with greefe,
A generall hunt ordeyned has,
whereof his sonne was cheefe.

That Meliager hight, with whome,
besides his vnckles twayne,
That Ioxeus and Plexippus hight,
there went as bookes shew plaine,
A Virgin fayre the Daughter,
of Iasius great of Fame,
Through all Arcadia where he raigned,
Atlanta was her name,
who with a stroke she gaue that Boze,
Did make him fyrst to bleede,
And therefore when the Boze was slaine,
to recompence that deede.
To her the head and humbles both
did Meliager giue,
which soone from her his vnckles tooke.
so much it did them greene,
Wherewith Meliager sore displeasde,
did therefore slay them both,
Which when his mother Althea knew,
she waxing wondrous wroth,
Into the fyre the brand did cast,
whereon his lyfe depended.
Which being wasted cleane away,
then straight his life it ended,
For whose dicease his Sisters all,
full lamentably mourned,
Till they at last amidst their woe,
to Turky Hennes were turned.

Lennoy.

THese forelayde things who noteth well,
to fyre them fast in mynde,
He shall not fayle for his auayle,
good fruicte therein to fynde.
Fyrst by Oeneus are we taught,
at no time to neglect,

The duty which we owe to God,
but chiefely haue respect,
To honour him, and laude his name,
that leddeth lyfe to all,
Which erth contwines, who lifts vs vp,
and likewise lets vs fall,
Whome Seas obay, whome heauens adoze
and all thinges else belyde,
Who sees and knowes our secret thoughtes,
though we the same would hyde,
And as he is a God moste iust,
so iustly will he render,
His grace vnto the penitent,
although a great offender,
Deseruing death most damnable,
so mercifull is he.
That as he saith, he doth not seeke,
a sinners death to see,
For when from depth of hart we will,
our hainous crimes confesse,
And craue forgiuenesse at his handes,
we soone shall finde redresse,
But when no mendment he perceiues,
noz warninges to preuayle,
Then with his mighty hand he doth,
vs wicked wightes assayle,
And vs and all our progeny,
vnto the death pursues,
Then praise we God, and vnto him,
all reuerence let vs vse,
And you O Captaines that doe guyde,
and gouerne Armies great,
Ye Magistrates and Rulers all,
that are with pryde repleate,
Leaue of lyke lawlesse Lozdes to liue,
Of Meliager learne,

To yield to eth his due deſert,
as reaſon ſhall diſcarne,
Who merits golden gaine to get,
for worthy workes committed,
In countreyes cauſe let his reward,
in no wiſe be remitted,
So ſhall you ſurely reape renowne,
and purchaſe peoples loue,
Yea valyaunt minds to vallyaunt actes,
thereby you ſoone ſhall moue,
you enuious ſorte at proſperous ſtate,
of men that doe repine,
That grutch to ſee another gaine,
with moſt mallicious eyne,
Forſake that foule infyrmitye,
that hurt with vertue heale,
Which vexeth euery vaine of you,
for grace to God appeale.
Elſe ſhall confuſyon come to you,
and that which you did craue,
To light on others that be ſure,
your ſelues alone ſhall haue,
By Meliager murtherers may
a good example ſee,
To cauſe them ſhun to ſeeke their blood,
with whome they greeued be.
Leaſt that the ſame to heauenly Ioue,
from earth do vengeaunce crye.
and ſo their ſoules be damde in hell,
when corpes in graue doe lye,
For God ſo much a murderer hates,
that be he priuce or peare,
yet blood craues blood, and vnto God
the Begger is as deare
In all reſpectes, as is the King,
that rules in regall raigne,

who

Who murdereth shall be murdered,
who slayeth shall be slaine,
What measure men to others meate,
with that they shall againe,
Be measured this finde we true,
by tryall euery day,
Now last of all let sisters learne,
where vertue beares chiefe sway,
To loue their brethren fernently,
as nature doth requyre,
So shall they purchase praise of all,
that know their good desyre.
Finis.

A letter written by one to a ritche Widdow, wherein vsing earnest perswations he soliciteth his sute, and craueth to be accepted.

LIke as the Captaine maye well bee counted a Coward, and vnworthy of victorye, that for a small discomfiture at the fyrst encounter will be cleane discouraged, so may he bee deemed but a dissembling Louer, that for one denyall will bee drawne cleane awaye, neither doth he deserue to reape so greate a commoditye, as the consent of her that he loueth maye bring vnto him.

But my loue being grounded vpon good occasyons, and setled on so sure a foundation, as it cannot be easily ouerwhelmed, so long as any sparke of lyfe abydeth in my body, it were greate crueltye to contemne me, or carelesse to cast me of, without rendring me a recompence worthy my deserning, which I am fully perswaded that your curteous condicion cannot consent vnto, and therefore am the more imboldened once againe to trouble you with my Letters. And although you woordes haue hitherto giuen mee small

hope of any further fauour then I haue already found, yet am I so blinded with affection, as I cannot but still persiuer in the same.

It pleased you at our laste conference amongest other thinges, to enquyre of my estate, which being in deede very simple, in comparison of that which it hath pleased God to call you vnto, If I shoulde haue made it better then it was, when you should afterwardes haue proued the contrarye, you mighte well haue deemed mee a Dissembler, and worthye of greate blame, for dealing so dubiely with you, and therefore I soughte rather to abase then better my selfe, as I trust youre seemelye selfe haue well perceiued.

Yet would I not haue you thinke me so simple, but that I shall be able alwayes to get an honest liuing to maintayne me withall, although I had none other helpes then that which God hath giuen me by nature, much more then being matched with such a one as you are, whose wealth is better knowne to others, then wished of mee for myne owne priuate profite.

For as I knowe my selfe altogither vnworthy of so great a benefite, so must I needes acknowledge the Fauoure that I haue already found at your handes, farre to exceede my desartes.

And yet, if you were priuie to my purposes and knew my true intent, and the great god will and vnfayned affection that youre clemencye constrayneth mee to beare vnto you, I doubte not but I shoulde fynde that friendlye fauour at your hands, that otherwise were vnmete for one of my degree.

But peraduenture, because I am a yong manne, and haue but little to take vnto, you thinke I woulde if I were once possessed of you, seeke onely to line vppon that which you haue, and not being carefull for your commoditye, nor respecting your person as I oughte to doe,

woulde

would carelesselye consume your substaunce, and when nothing remaineth to maintaine my ryots, woulde leaue you to to shifte for your selfe, (as many vyld varlets doe at this day the more is the pitty) But they be such as haue in them neither honestye nor wisedome, or will doe well.

And if you so conceiue of me (as I hope you do not,) how farre this imagination differeth from my good meaning, God and mine owne conscience onely knoweth. I beseech you therefore suffer no such thoughtes to sinke into youre minde, for if my deedes bee founde anye thing differente from my wordes, I wish that the earth may gape and swallow me vp, or fyre from heauen consume me,

Diuerse are the reasons that induce me thus earnestlye to solicite my suite vnto you.

First your personage, which pleaseth me more then any that euer I sawe.

Secondly, your curteous conditions, vertues, and wisdome, being such, as would well content any honeste and well minded man, though the rest were wanting.

Thirdelye, your yeares which being at the full perfection, neither to yong a wanton, or to olde a Dotarde, but one that are both able for your experience, to minister good councell to suche an vnskilfull yong man as I am, and also sufficiently satisfye me in all other thinges requisite for my yong yeares.

Fowerthlye, youre wealth to supplye my wante, whiche beeing so well ordred as I assure you it should be, if I inioyed it, it might not onelye be conserued, but also increased to the great commoditie and comforte of vs both.

These be the causes that incourage mee so effectually to prosecute my purpose, wherein if I finde you fauourable as I hope I shall, I will not onelye bee readye to performe my promyses in all respectes,

but

but also would be moste humbly at your commaundment, as your moste bounden and obedient seruaunt.

Finis.

The fyrst Letter written to the same widdowe, extolling her vertues, which he allegeth to be the cause of his ardent affection, he requyreth mariage of her.

THe commendable qualities together wyth the incomparable curtesy that I haue heard and partly seene to be in you hath incouraged me thus boldly to presume to present you with my disordered letters, therebye to lette you vnderstand the harty good will and vnfained affection which I haue long tyme borne vnto you though feare to offend you haue caused me hitherto to conceale it, hoping that although my degree be farre inferiour to yours, in euery respect, yet will you not scorne my curtesy, or requite my good will with cruelrye.

My request is reasonable, and my desyres not dishonest and therefore deserue the rather to be fauoured, mariage is the marke I shoote at, which is a holy thing, and ordeyned by God, from the beginning.

And although I craue to be matched with you, yet if I might finde the fauour at your handes to be so accepted, considering our inequallity, and not desyring the superiorledge which pertayneth to those that inioye their equals, so were, obedience in the wife toward her husband, I would refer my self wholy vnto your discretion, and yeild you the preheminence in al things as reason willeth, & being but as it were your steward, would discharge you of those weighty and troublesome affayres, that are incident to your calling.

As for my qualities and condicions what they are, I will leaue to the report of others. But in deede my welth is

is verye small, yet is that wee of so supplyed with good will, as I hope you shoulde haue no cause to repent you of the choyse of so base a personage, but rather reioyce that it was your lotte, to light on so louing a friend, For I am sure that the man lineth not on earth at this howeer, that would more esteeme, loue and cherrish you then I would do, & if it would please you once to make triall of me, I hope you should finde me in all things according to your hartes desyre, which considered, I doubt not but I shall finde you ready to releeue me, by recompensing my good will with the lyke, with which hope I will comforte my selfe, till I heare the contrary, and so craving pardone for my boldenesse, I commit you to God.

A yong Gentlewoman wrighteth this for answere to a Gentlemans Letter, that craued her loue and exhorteth her to keepe promise with him, wherein excusing her selfe, by her ouer yong yeres, and his vnhabillieye, she prayeth him to cease of his sute.

YOur Leeters syr I haue receiued,
and pondring well the same,
Haue now prepardе my selfe thereto,
an answere fit to frame,
Though in your wrìt you rome and raunge,
aboute the bushe a while,
And vse huge heapes of needelesse wordes,
my sences to begyle.
I see you seeke, but all in vaine,
to winne me to your wife,
which I may not vouchsafe to graunt,
for feare of further stryfe.
Because it is not in my power,
to dos it, though my will,
were

were wholy bent thereto: but in
their handes whole prudent skill,
And wisedome great is such,
as knowing what for me,
whose meetest is, to your demaund
will neuer once agree,
And as their care is very great
to doe me good, so I
(As duety binds) in all thinges will,
my selfe to them apply.
your welth likewise is very small,
as you your selfe confesse,
And mine not great, and am right sure,
it would be so much lesse,
If following fancyes flattering words,
or fained vowes, I should
Contrary doe to friendes desyre,
and that which worst I would,
Their loue and fauour lose thereby,
therefore cease of your suit,
Content your selfe with reasons rule,
and doe no blame impute.
To me at all, whose tender age,
ne wit ne welth willserue,
To take in hand so great a charge,
but I therein should swerue.
And for that cause I doe not mynde,
to match with any one,
Vntill I be of ryper yeares,
nor promise plight to none,
yet when I doe, I will apply
my selfe in all I may,
To choose a wise and prudent mate,
That walkes in vertues way:
Prouiding therewithall,
that welth doe neuer want,

Sufficient

sufficient alwayes to maintaine,
the fruicte of such a plant:
For whereas liuing lacking is,
to maintaine such estate,
Their perfect loue will soone peruert,
to cruell cancred hate,
And whereas rooted rancour raignes,
all thinges to ruine runne,
yea vertue chaungde to vice mostvyde,
decay they cannot shunne
That shall be matched so, wherefore,
doth wisdome alwayes will,
In time conueniente heede to take,
if we will shunne such ill,
But though I know right well, the vse
of many men to be,
with flattering wordes and fyled phraise,
as did Æneas he,
To Dido, and false Demophon
to Phillis faire his friend,
For to deceiue vs silly soules,
that neuer hurt pretend,
But credite all their cloked craft,
that beares a simple shoe,
Till we be caught in Cupids snare,
so fast, that forth to goe
we haue not power, and then vnkind
they leaue vs in the lash,
A iust reward no doubt for such,
as will be ouer rash
In that they take in hand, yet I,
not iudging so of you,
But thinking that your loue profest,
doth perfect is and true,
Doe yeelde you thankes therefore,
and humbly pardon craue,

For that I may not giue consent,
to that you seeke to haue,
The cause and reasons tolde before,
that doe in deede deteine me,
Perswading still the contrary,
at all times doe restraine me,
As for the promise which so much,
you vrge me for to keepe,
Assuring me by breache thereof,
to runne in daunger deepe,
No promise haue I made, whereby
you may so much take holde,
I am right sure, but that I may,
to breake the same be bolde,
But if I had, yet euery one
would iudge you farre vnwise,
To challenge any at my handes,
in whome it nothing lyes
For to performe the same, sith of
my selfe nothing I haue,
Nor wit to know what thing is ill,
or what is good to craue,
And therefore ayming very wyde,
and as one wanting sight,
Doth throw his staffe, to doe you shoote,
but shall not hit the whight,
And therefore now to make an ende,
I humbly you requyre,
No more to moone me in such sort,
but bydeling your desyre,
And pondring rightly this reply,
which here to you I make,
To feede no more on foolish hope,
But this for answere take.

Finis.

A.B.

A. B. wrighting to his sister C. B. admonisheth her of such thinges as he fyndeth amisse in her: and instructeth her how shee should behaue herselfe, to preserue her good name.

Welbeloued Sister, for as much as both nature and conscience bindeth me to be carefull for your commodity I haue thought good (as a friend) to admonishe you of such thinges as I finde amisse in you, which I praye you take in good part, and iudge none euill in me for the same, for I protest vnto you before God, that it is not of any enuye or mallice that I beare vnto you, but of meere good will, and to discharge my duty both towardes God, and you.

I see and heare and am sorry to vnderstande, what reportes are dayly raysed against you, for that you keepe companye, and make your selfe acquainted with so manye lewde disposed persons as you doe.

Indeede it is a great presumption of an euill lyfe to bee conuersaunt with those that bee euill, for commonlye lyke will to lyke.

Peradventure you thinke it a goodly grace, and greatly to your commendation, with friendly lookes, and curteous intertainements to draw men vnto you, but it is not so, and surely if you did consider the illes that it hath, and the inconuenience that groweth thereby, you would rather shut your selfe vp in some secrete chamber, and lyue a sollitary lyfe for euer, then set to the shew so often as you doe, for trust to this, and surely you shall fynd it most true, that as the Fowler with his fayned notes, bringeth the the byrdes to his net, so those subtle serpentes, whose myndes are alwayes bent to mischiefe, will with their flattering speeches, and false fained fetches, allure you to theire lubidious lustes, if they can.

But lend no eare vnto them, nor giue no credit vnto their words, for he that amongst them maketh the greatest show of good will, will bee the man that shal soonest deceiue you.

It is not any honest loue that they intend, but their desyre is to despoyle you of that which is the Jewell, wherein you oughte cheefelye to ioye, whereof if they fayle, they will then rayse the moste vilde and slaunderous reportes against you that can bedeuyſed, and will not sticke to reporte their pleasure of you, in euery place where they come, to your great reproch and infamy, & though it be neuer so falce that they faine, yet the reporte thereof, entring into the eares of the common sort, (that are redier to beleeue leasings, then credite the verity,) they wil sone imagine it to be true, and blaze it abroade for a certaintye, into the eares of all men, and so where by good gouernment you might haue gotten great cõmendation, through this your disordred liberty, you grow in great defamation. Leaue then to lend eare to the lewde perswations of those corrupt Caterpillers, be not in any wise conuersaunt with them, but flye from them as from a most pestilent euill, so shall you preserue your good name vnspotted, and giue no occasyon to be ill thought of, which in my poore opinyon, will be more benefitiall to your selfe, and lesse hurtfull to others, then by following your former course it would be, and so fare you well.

The lamentable complaint of a louer, who notwithstanding his diuerse daungerous trauailes, and continual sorrow sustained couldc fynd no fauor at al at her hands that was the causer of his callamity, but cruell contempt, to counteruayle his curtesy.

Of many torments, straunge and tedious toyles,
That grisly ghostes in Limbo lake sustaine,
Of feareful facts, and bloody beastly broiles,
That there are vide, the pleasaunt Poets fayne,
As how that Phlegias to his treble paine,
Vpon a turning wheele is fixed fast,

which makes him liche his lyfe, that long doth last.

How Sisiphus doth rowle the restlesse stone,
which to the top attaind, turnes back againe,
How silly Tityus making mistfull mone,
Unto a Rock fast tyde, doth stil sustaine,
The griping gresies that ravenously hym constraine,
who on his entrailes dayly feede their fill,
And yet he lives, to trye these tormentes still.

How Tantalus amidst the streame that standes,
Up to the chin, is like for drouth to dye,
And goodly Apples almost in his hands,
with hunger nipt, in extreame payne doth lye,
How Danaus daughters doe themselves applye,
with pailes that bottomes want, a tubbe to fill,
That wanteth bottome to, which passeth still.

But all their paines may not compared be,
To that which I doe every howre tryde.
For all at once assembled are in me,
Here is no torment that I haue not tryde,
To me the heauens haue happy hate denyde,
The Planets all appointed me by fate,
to liue and leade my life in lothsome state,

All day my minde with fancies fond is fraught,
which greatly paines my witte and wealces my braine
To no effect at all, when sleepe hath caught,
Some holde of me at night, alas my paine
Growes greater farre, fly deadly dreames restraine
My quiet rest, all ayde is mone to me.
All pleasure paine, I loth the light to see.

Of all the wightes that euer liued in loue,
was neuer none, so full of such payne as my self

though [illegible]
yet did they gaine their wished will in fyne,
Their Ladies [illegible]
And they inioyde [illegible]
At wished will their [illegible]

Though [illegible]
And many perrills [illegible]
yet he at last [illegible]
Enioyde her loue, and reft her from her make,
which deede the Grecians so greeu'd [illegible]
As Troy therefore they did to ruine bring,
The fittest fruicte [illegible]

when Peleus [illegible]
The Pontick [illegible]
Andromade, [illegible]
Fast bound with chaines, erpecting euery howre,
For dread full death [illegible]
which fancy forst [illegible]
And after led his life in lasting ioy,

And many more [illegible]
who after paine [illegible]
I might bring in [illegible]
Hippomanes that fryde in Cupids fyre.
And Pelops [illegible]
But [illegible]
That none for [illegible]

For I [illegible]
Haue spent much time [illegible]
And when I thought me well, my ship [illegible]
when safe I seemde, then safe I most vnsure,
Not deadly dole [illegible]
Not trickling [illegible]

To purchase that which I doe well deserue.

When as I glaunce my glaring eyes on her,
She bendes her lookes vpon some other thing,
When as I woulde with wordes my suite preferre,
Then angry she away from me doth fling,
Saying take heede, the Syren now doth sing,
And when with pen my passyons I depaint,
She rentes my writ, and scornes my pitious plaint.

If messengers I sende with her to treate,
And pleade my cause as they can best deuise,
Their wordes so set her haughty heart in heate,
who causeles still doth me so much despise,
As when she heares me named, her blood doth rise,
An when my friendes doe her present with aught,
She frets and fumes as one with fury straught.

Through places scarcely knowne, both day and night,
through woods, through groues, & marish grounds I rode
Through Forrests, fennes and furreowes hayde of lighes,
yet euer haunte hilles where I abode,
Full many bitter blastes beinge I trade
Ere cruelle race where I this Tiger found,
whose dinelish deedes doth cause my cares abound.

Then curssed be the howre and cake the daye,
wherein I did to her my iourney frame.
I would I had bene murdered by the way.
Before I came to see that cruell Dame,
Who for good will to me yelde me bitter blame,
For when the death hadone deprinde of all.
Her daungers dyre, wherein I dayly fall.

But all to late to shut the stable doore.
When steede is stolne, so saith the prouerbe olde,

I wisely shoulde haue thought of this before
I did attempt her bewty to beholde,
Who hath my heavy hart so hard in holde,
As needes I must both loue and serue her still,
Though she me lothe, and seeke my blood to spill.

II

You yenglinges all, where euer that you be,
That subiect are vnto the lawes of loue,
Take hede in time, be wyselye warnd by me,
On whome you looke, least lookes that liking moue,
Ingendring loue, make you more paines to proue,
Then I poore wretch that vayly wishyth dye,
And yet dos liue, these torments straunge to trye.

Finis.

A yong man being in loue with a fayre Gentlewoman, that was but his equall, desyreth to be accepted for her husband.

THE passyons extreme which for your sake I haue long sustained, being now through continuaunce of tyme, so wonderfully augmented and increased, that being no longer able to tollerate the extreme paine thereof, I am constred and perforce constrained in most humble wise to craue grace at your handes, which is the onely meane whereby I may be cured of this most greeuous and insupportable mallady: Refuse not therefore I pray you this my petition, which is both honest and reasonable let not my good will be requited with disdaine, nor my curtesie with cruelty, for that were a point beyde of all humanitye, and far different from all maydenlike modestie. Dido Queene of Carthage loued Æneas a straunger and a banished man, Euphimia Daughter to the King, and heyre to the crowne of the Kingdome of Corinth, maryed herselfe with Acharisto her fathers bondman. The Duchesse of Malfey chose for

for her husbande, her seruaunt Virico. And Venus also, (if we may give credite to the fictions of poets, who for her surpassing beawty was canonized a Goddesse,) refused not to be the wife of lame Vulcanus.

Much lesse needs you then, that are mortal, and but of a meane progenye in comparison of the worste of all those princely Dames before repeated, to thinke scorne of mee that am no Straunger, but your owne native contreyman, no wandring exile, but a true and faithfull Subiect, continuing in the countrey where I was first borne and fostered, neither seruaunt to you, nor slaue to any other, but perfitly free from the yoke of seruitude and bondage, vntil such time as by contemplating the bright beames of your surpassing beawty, my poore hart was so captiuated, that I was constrained to commit my selfe wholy vnto your clemency, not yet so monstrous and misshapen a creature, whereby you might haue iuste occasion to mislike of mee, but God I giue him thankes for it, as plentifully enriched with the giftes of nature, as another man.

All which being well and aduisedly of you considered, I am perswaded and fully resolued in my cogitation, that you will not refuse my gentle offer, or disdayne to elect and accepte me for your loyall louer, and lawfull husband, who (aboue all other earthly Creatures) am most desyrous for rearme of lyfe to be linked with you in league of perfecte loue, and amity.

Thus hoping that by meanes of youre bountifull benignitie, and accustomed clemencye, I shall not fayle to fynde all thinges correspondent, and according to my hartes desyre, I leaue to trouble you a ny further for this time.

And so fare you well.

Finis.

C.D. Being enamored of a fayre and vertuus yong Gentlewoman he craueth speedy comfort.

DEarely beloued, without whose grace and good will, nothing seemeth likelie of pleasaunce vnto me, nu not to inioy my lyfe, vnlesse I may therewith obtayn thy loue which my hart aboue all thinges terrestriall doth chiefely couet and desyre.

Loue onely hath caused me to wright vnto you, youre surpassing beawty hath perforce procured me to loue you, and your rare and singuler vertues haue chiefely kindled my affection towardes you, which affection doth so greatly abound in me, and so inestimably tormente my poore captiue carcas, that if you in whome it onely resteth to redresse the same doe not speedily tender some pleasant and precious potion, to asswage the intollerable anguishe of this my moste greeuous and painefull maladye, my lyfe is like to be put in great perrill thereby.

The plant whilst it is yet yong and tender may be easily cut downe, but if it be let alone vntouched, it will in time grow so great, as with much labour it shall be almost impossible to roote it out, but that some small sprigs shall still abyde behinde in the bowels of the earth which maye afterwards receiue againe the former force, and accustomed greatnesse.

The ware whilst it is warme, may be easily reduced into what forme or fashion that a man will, but being let alone till it be colde, it waxeth so harde and brittle, that it will sooner breake, then be brought to any perfect proportion, or vniformitye.

So likewise is it in loue, for the louer that loueth faythfully, being dayly fedde with fayre wordes, if he doe not in short time obtaine the full effect of his desyre, the flame already kindled in his brest, within the ende ware so wonderfull great, as all the water in riber and Nylus, shall not

suffice

suffice to quench the same, vntill the body of the poore myserable louer, be dissolued into dust.

Comfort therefore I beseech you of my sorrowful state, way my good will and faithful affection towards you, ponder my pitifull plaints, and bury not grace so in him that loueth you more then his owne life, vse not crueltie towards your louer, but rather pitie the perilous waues of vnhappy mischance, that he is readie and willing to vndertake to please my beloued Hero, would be ready to attempte it how dangerous soeuer the aduenture were.

Refuse not therefore my reasonable request, seeing that by pretence of your vertues, you are thereunto bound: for my vnfeigned loue, and perfect vnitying it, can put me in no great perill, whereby you should be in fault to grant, and blame of all men accounted for cruell.

This hoping that your pitifull hart will, ere ought this my moste humble supplication preuailes me, put me out of expectation vpon my desert will haue, I commit this your conceit vnto the mition of the Almightie, whome I pray send you the fruition of your desire.

Finis.

The Louer perceiuing the loue of his beloued mistresse, not to be so perfect as before time it had bene, wrighteth vnto her as followeth.

BEing of late my dearely beloued mistresse, by meanes of your worthy personage aboue measure garnished with so many good gifts of nature, allured as rather perceiued so large your affectionate inclination as ruler of mine vnfainedst to appeare vnto you, but rather as it seemed to me, you bent your loue the lyke same, and had as fyrmely fixed your fancy vpon me, as I was fully determined for euermore to loue you.

But alas, at this present, to my great griefe and contynuall

mutuall deceyuer both of my wyfe and body? I know the contrary.

For why your wyfe, vpon what occasyon I knowe not, is cleane alienated from me, so that in stede of friendly lookes I finde a frowning countenaunce, and in stede of the pleasaunt prattes and courteous communication which before you vsed with me, I haue nowe nothing else but frowarde and vnfriendly answeres, disgracefull words and biting ieastes, which seemeth to me farre more bitter then gall: so is my good will requyted with disdayne, and my curtesie with vnkindnesse.

Oh who woulde thinke that in one indued with so many excellent vertues as you are, there shoulde bee abiding so fonde vice as is suspition? who woulde iudge that in so comly a body, there shoulde remaine so vnconstant a hart, what haue I done that vnwittingly you, wherein haue I offended you, whereby haue I deserued this great discurtesie, that you hauing (I vnderstande) vnwrapped with the loue of any other, whereas mine hath ben, your loue in suspition, haue you at any time bene vpbrayded with the same, or else hath some malicious person practised by slaunderous reportes to raise reproch vpon me in my absence, or vttered any euill wordes against me, thinking thereby to hinder our loue, and cause you to conceiue some euill opinyon of me.

If it be so, or howsoeuer it be, I pray you let me haue intelligence, and before the truth of the matter be thoroughlye vnderstood, giue eare to none that shall reporte it (as I hope it will fall out in the ende, when my answere is harde,) condemne me not without desert, for certainelye to my knowledge, I neuer gaue cause any thing wherewith you should be offended, neither haue I offered any occasyon whereby you might be iustly moued to thinke euill of me, if I haue it was vnwittingly, and being hartily sorrye for the same, I doe moste humblye craue pardon at your handes.

Great

Great is the loue I beare vnto you, and so greeuous is the wound that I haue receiued thereby, that if you, who are the iewell of my ioye, preseruer of my health, and the very lengthner of my lingering lyfe, do not minister some comfortable consaruse, or pleasaunt potion, to mittigate the intollerable torment of my moste mischieuous malladye. I am not able long to abyde it, and therefore I moste humbly beseeche you to haue good regarde vnto my sorowfull state, and seing I am so vrnely borne, for reasone of lyfe, to loue you aboue all other, cast cleane from you all disdaincfulnesse, and render mee lyke loue again, on your part.

For thereby you shall purchase to your selfe so faythfull a friend, as will alwayes continue moste constant: needelesse it is for me to make any plainer declaration of my desyre, for I am assured that my good meaning is alreadye well knowne vnto you: but this I say, and I take God to witnesse, I speake it vnfeynedly, that there liueth not on the earth at this houre, which I coulde so well like of, as I doe of you, or with whome I had rather matche my selfe, so greatlye haue I beene affectioned vnto you, euen from the verye firste houre that I beheelde you. Until which presente time, and thereafter committing my selfe vnto your fauour, in whome is onelye resteth to redresse my sorowes, and comforte my carefull hart in hope to receiue such answere from you, as shalbe greatly to my contentation. I leaue to trouble you any further for this

Finis.

As you being ladie full of the good will of his Ladyes
by reason of the mutabilitie that many times
he found to be in her, craueth
more assurance at her
handes.

Great good will I haue long time borne
you, my welbeloued Parmenia, both by my
words and deedes you haue plainely perceiued
and albeit ofter you haue diuers times in plain
speeche professed the like vnto me, yet haue I to my great
liking found so vnfeigned gentle nesse as I would not
haue wished otherwise of you.

If you deale with me as a friend, feede me not with
faire wordes and vnkinde deedes, but shewe accordingly, pro-
uiding among other your commodities for your owne good
not to put me off with delayes and disdaine, nor receiue me
to your fauour, and afterwardes reiect me, for surely in so
doing, you shall not onely deceiue me, but also greatly de-
ceiue your selfe, whereby your double dealing shalbe known
vnto all.

If you can fancie me, then without any exception conse-
quently take me for him whom you desire to serue and
loue with all your might.

If you find not such entertainment as it dooth, that I
may know what to trust vnto, and so by refraining your
companie, proue a kinde affection, which is so
firmely fixed vpon you, assure, I shall hardely re-
proue it.

Faine would I more often frequente youre companye,
but fearing to purchase your displeasure, and wishing ra-
ther to suffer my selfe the greatest sorrow that may be sus-
tained, then you by any meanes should abide any blame at
all for my sake I haue hitherto restrained my desire with
the rule of reason, and satisfied my selfe often times with
the

the onely sight of the place where you frequent, as if your selfe had bene present with me, such is the force of affection, but yet desyring rather to haue it so in deede, then to deme it so, to the end I may haue conference with you, for ouerse occasyons.

I moste hartely pray you let me either vnderstand your minde by writing or else deuise some meanes that I may haue accesse vnto you to talke with you in proper person till which time I shall neuer take rest. but bee continually troubled with a thousand imaginations.

Thus wishing you as well to fare as your hart would desyre, I commit you to the tuition of the Almighty whom I pray still to protecte you.

Finis.

The Auctour writing to his sister that was towardes marriage, teacheth how to make choise of a husband and howe to behaue her selfe beeing a Wyfe.

Dearely beloued Sister, vnderstanding that you are disposed to enter into the blessed state of matrimony, but with whome I know not, and remembring the sage sentence of that wise Emperour Marcus Aurelius, that the greatest reward which one friend may impart to another is to succour him with good counsell, knowing also that there is nothing wherein counsell is more requisite then in mariages, for that whosoeuer falleth in the perilles thereof can finde no remedy for it, without farre greater perill, I haue thought good, as far as my weake wit, and slender skill can serue me, to shewe you my simple opinion therein.

Like as fyre my welbeloued Sister, whyche lieth long in kindling, yeeldeth farre greater heate then that whyche by and by taketh flame, so loue whych hath had long continu-

aunce is of muche more force then that whiche groweth vpon the sodain, for as fyre that flameth at ỳ first blowing is but as a flash that by and by vanisheth, so is the loue which groweth on the sodain like vnto a shadow ỳ whilst the sonne shineth, sheweth plain and perfit to the sight of euery man, but when it is darkened, cannot be discerned at all. So are there some men of so lewde a condition that so long as her beawty abydeth, to whome they professe good will, her wealth not deminished and her countinaunce seemeth chearefull, they continue their loue, but if the contrary happen, then by and by their loue waxeth colde, for if her beawtie by sickenesse be abated, her wealth thoughe anye casualtie deminished, or her chearefull countinaunce by sorrow changed to the contrary, then forgetting her vertues which stil remain perfect, they are cleane changed to another likenesse, their swete meliferous words, become as bitter as worm wood, their seeming plain misliking, & their great loue disdaine. This is the fruict of such sodaine loue, this is the best commoditye that may therby bee reaped, for this we see by experience, that the fruict which is soonest ripe, is soonest rotten, and the fyre whiche is soonest kindled, is soonest quenched, and so likewise is the hotest loue soonest cold. Wherfore I pray you and friendly aduise you, in anye wise to take good deliberation in the choyse of your husbande, trye him thoroughlye, before you truste him, that shall make you anye offer of his loue.

And though his outwarde behauyoure seeme honest, though his possessions be large, his persuations greate, and his person please you neuer so well, yet still you haue well considered of the matter and consulted with youre friendes, who will neyther aduise you to doe anye thing that is hurtfull, nor persuade you from that whiche may be profitable vnto you, yet giue not your consent in anye wyse to their flattering insinuacions.

For as the Foxe with his fained Notes deceiues the fillye byrdes and bringes them to their bane, so be there some

some that vnder a fayre shew of fayned friendshippe, seeke by all meanes possible to corrupte the myndes of honeste maydens, and intice them to folly, which they shall hardly withstand, if they lend eare to their lewde language. But were it so that you shoulde lighte vppon one that indeede loues you dearelye, and meane to deale plainely and honestly with you, if you haue not respecte as well to other matters as to that, it will in the end redounde to your great discommodity, for although in the beginning, fewe marriages seeme vnpleasant, yet being made only for loue without further aduisement they cannot chuse but haue a sadde and sorrowfull ending: and therfore I would aduise you to chose such a one as should not only be wise & welthye, but also well inclined wealthy to maintaine you, according to your degree, & his degree, wise to gouern those goods that God hath sent him, with reason & discretion, and of a good conuersation to the intent that he may not onely order you as he ought to do, but also bring vp his family vertuously and in the feare of God for so shall God blesse him the better, and all his actions shal haue a good & prosperous end, whereas if he be vicious, & of a lewd disposition, his inferiors following his example, maybe the like, for such husband such wife, such father such children, & such maisters such seruants, so is it commonly seene & so were he neuer so subtelly witted or indued with neuer so great abundance, one way or other al would quickly go to wrack, & come to nothing: & for as much as the welth of ỹ husband doth chiefely depẽd vpon the good behauiour of his wife, in ỹ disposing of his household affaires, I wold aduise you to be careful in all honest order to conserue & increase ỹ which your husband shall get, & not to spend superfluously vpon such trifles & toyes as are but spurs to prouoke pride, which is the pathway to perdition, whereof the wife (being the cheefest member of her husbands body,) shall be the first that shall feele the smart of it, when exchanging her gorgious garments for a poore patched cote, her fine delicate dishes for such scraps

as she can get for Gods sake, her soft fetherbeds, and beds of downe, for a Pallet of straw, her gorgious buildinges, for a silly sheepe cote, or such like, to be brought to that extremity, that she shall rather wish to dye then line in that miserable estate, when hauing bene a mistresse of manye seruauntes in her youth, she shall her selfe in her olde age, be faine to be a slaue and seruaunt to such as sometime she could commaund, for it is no doubt, a right miserable and wretched state, a torment intollerable, and a greefe inexplicable, after so great plenty, to feele such extreame penurye. but it is thee meetest reward for them that wil not take heede before hande, to repent them afterward when it is to late, for when the steede is stolne, it is no time to shutte the stable doore, and it is most certaine, one far from their good, are neare to their harme, for euery man basteth the fat hog, but the leane shall burne before he be basted, my meaning is, and it is dayly seene, that he that hath enough shal haue more, he that hath a little shall haue lesse, but hee that hath nothing at all of himselfe, let him be sure that hee shall get nothing of an other, wherfore (if you couet to be accounted wise and vertuous) knowing how great an enemye slee is to her selfe, and into how many dangers she intrudeth herself that is negligent and care to conserue her husbands goods, you will rather forbeare thinges necessary then you would be any hinderaunce to your husbands profit, yea, trauaile al that you can to increase his stock, rather then one whit to diminish it, wisely waighing that if any thing hap pen to her husband, otherwise then well, she is not one of the last, as I sayde before, which shall feele the smart of it. And thus praying you to print these precepts in your hart for feare to be ouer tedious, I leaue to trouble you anye more at this time.

Finis.

A pore yong man being vehemently vexed for the loue of a fyre yong Gentlewoman, craueth her fauour for the conseruation of his lyfe, almost consumed.

O rare is your beawtye, bountie and grace that as the Adamante drayweth vnto it, so doeth the same draw the mindes of men vnto you, and like Cirses charmes, transpoarte them into what likenesse you list.

What maruaile is it then though manye worthy Gentlemen being bleared with the bright beames thereof, be inforced for the appeasemente of their paine, to seeke all meanes possible to purchase your gracious good will and fauour.

But my good mistresse, amongst so many that haue made sute vnto you, I maruaile you make choyse of none, peraduenture it is because you cannot comprehende any constancye or faithfulldelitye to be fixed in them, if it be so, behold I am he that can and will, if you please, supply that wante in you, & as you shold wel know, if you made proffe of me, I doubt not but you should find me such a one, as in all respectes, would sufficiently satisfy your minde, yea, and so content you, as the choyse of me, shoulde not once moone you to chaunge, the baseneese of my byrth be any blemishe to your dignitie, or your gentle acceptance to my offered curtesye, moue you to repente you of so gracious a deede. Pardon me I pray you, if in this my rude writing, I haue committed anye crime, or done that which is contrarye to duty, and impute the fault onely to loue, whose burning flames hauing long tyme boyled in my brest, not being able now, any longer to concele the same, I am throrow behemency of the paine, that thereby oppresseth my pore pensiue hart, enforced at the last, in hope of redresse, to reueale

my

my hidden greefes vnto you, being the onely Mistresse of my health, life and libertie, without whose grace or mine owne great perrill may not possiblye be repressed, nor my paines appeased, for if they coulde, then eyther feare of youre displeasure, reason or duty woulde haue detained me from this my present purpose, and presumptious attempt, and not haue permitted mee with woe to wade so farre, in so daungerous a Sea, seing therefore that the passion which oppresseth me is so paynefull, the fyre that wasteth me so behement, the cause proceeding from you, and the remedy resting only in your hands, I thinke you cannot be so cruell harted, but that pitty will mone you in the ende, to rue the callamitye that youre poore Seruaunt hath for your sake so long sustayned, and to hasten the remedy for his release, that with the dewe of grace issuing from your moste delicate bodye, you may speedilye quenche that consuming fyre, whiche so continuallye inflameth his harte with desyre to doe suche seemelye seruice as shall be acceptable vnto you, who accounpting all payne but pleasure that hee sustaineth for your sake, yeeldeth himselfe wholye vnto your clemencye, to render him the finall sentence of lyfe or death, which hee dayly expecteth.

Finis.

How foolish women are in the choyse of their Louers.

The Smith whose toyling trade.
besmeard his face with sweat,
And made him like a Croyden Knight,
with working in the heate,
More lucky was in loue,
then Hercules the stoute,
The one inioyde a dainty Dame,
the other went without,

Vulcanus

Vulcanus had to wife,
the Lady cheefe of loue,
Whose passing bewty peereleſſe was,
as Paris plaine did proue.
But long Alsides serude,
sayze Iole at her will,
In womans weede, and yet did sayle,
to finde her fauour still,
For oft it is the trade
of women, to effect
Lewde lumpish loutes deuoyde of wit
and wiser wightes reiect,
A Clowne that from the Cart,
is come in court to serue,
In whome there is no kinde of cause,
good liking to deserue,
Shall catch a gallaunt gyzle,
and purchase at her handes
That others lack, whose faithfull harkes,
were scozcht with Cupids brands,
Then let him loue that list,
for I will leaue the lure,
Of those lewde Dames whose diuelish diftes,
such curſed cares procure.

Finis.

Damon wrighteth to his friend Sulippo exhorting him to seeke preferment whilst the time serueth.

SUrelye my Sulippo, when I remember the poore estate wherin thou presently standeſt, and cõpare it with the misery of this our age, I cannot but greatlye marualle to see thy slacknesse in seeking preferment cõsidering how hard a time it is to attain to any thing, or to kepe ỹ which wee haue with quietnesse, euerye one being readye to

pull.

pull the meate out of an other mans mouth, that happy is he who hath any thing to stay vnto, for if he want he shall finde few friendes in his necessity that will pitie his pouertie or set to their handes to helpe him, be his neede neuer so great, and therefore in my poore opinion, it is good (as they say) to hold open the poke whilst the pigge is proffered, and taking the time whilst it serueth, to stryke whilst the yron is hote, and not with Esopes Dogge, leauing the flesh for the shadow, forgot a thing certayne, for a hope vncertaine, least repentaunce follow, when it is to late, for better it is to haue one byrde in hande, then two in the Bushe, seeing that oftentimes whilste the Grasse growes the steede starues, for her that hopeth after deade men shoes many times goeth barefoote, many things happen betweene the cuppe and the lippe, and therefore diuerse meanes there may be hereafter to hinder that which may now without any great difficultie, be atchieued seeing there is nothing but onely the wante of mayster Molescus good will, to prevent your purpose, which by good perswation and earnest intreaty, may possibly be obteined the rather or ỹ he seeth mayster Glomerok so desyrous to doe you good, I pray you therefore finde some good time, so soone as conuenyently you can, to talke with him about it, for as it greeueth me to see the vse that now you leade, without either profite or pleasure, so am I very desyrous to haue you prouide in Sommer, against the extremity of the winter, and seeke somewhat in your youth, to maynetain you in your age, to the end that you may be a comfort, and not a trouble, to the hartes of such your poore friendes, as wish you well, who will not fayle to do their vttermoste indeuour to further your preferment in all they may.

Thus praying you to remember what I haue written vnto you, and to put it in practise so soone as you maye, I bid you fare well.

Finis.

Varinus

Varinus hauing found in the night time that which pleased his fancy he commendeth it much, and craueth to be accepted for her seruant whom he intyrely loued.

Though many much misse the long
and weary winter nights,
I cannot but commend them still,
for diuerse dere delightes,
The night we see, brings silver sleepes,
sleepe courseth care away,
Cares being cast from out the mind,
there harboures happy ioye,
where ioye abounds, there helth hath place,
where happy helth doth bide,
There life lasles long, this proofs shewes plaine,
and may not be denyde:
Lo this the happy night procures,
which wrought my wished will,
Therefore I must before the day,
preferre and praise it still,
But some perhaps will marualle much,
my fond effect to heare,
Let them not spare mine knowes the cause,
why I so straunge appeare,
In this my vnacquainted verse,
such darke conceites to write,
Nor neuer shall, but onely I,
and she whose beawty bright,
Did in the darke both cleare mine eyes,
and lend me perfect light,
She she it is that knowes full well,
from whence my Muse proceedes,
Yea she it is that both my blisse,
and bale together breedes,
Her presence doth procure my rest,
her absence workes my woe,

Her chearefull lokes doe cheare my hart,
her sorrow makes to flow
Whole floodes of teares from out mine eyes,
and kilies my hart with care,
whose comly grace and courteous deedes,
doe make her seeme as rare
As in the world the Phenix is,
and blessed would I count
My selfe, and say that in good luck,
all others I surmount,
Might I but once such grace obtaine
at her sweete handes, to be
Accepted as a seruaunt true,
no more is craude of me,
which if I might atchieue, no doubt,
I would my selfe apply,
To please her so in eche respect,
as she should truely trie,
And so confesse, she neuer found
so fyrme a friend before,
Or seruaunt of such secretie,
that did esteeme her more:
What so she could commaund or will,
by day or else by night,
On sea or Land I would fulfill
though death appeard in sight,
Or all the greefes that grielly ghostes,
in Limbo lake sustaine,
Should me assayle with furious moode,
to make me to refraine:
Yet should it not withdraw my minde,
from doing her desyre,
Hap good or ill, what so betide,
I would thereto aspyre,
And wages none at all I crauue,
but leaue it to her will.

According to her curtesy,
her fancy to fulfill.
But when she hath made profe of me,
as she shall best deuise,
And sees my seruice what it is,
if she in any wise
Spil like herself, let her withdraw
From me her fauour quight,
And vse what kinde of way she will.
to worke me more despight.
For as my health on her dependes,
So if I winne her grace,
I loth my life and wish for death,
to reaue my rufull race.

Finis.

A pore yong man being in loue with a ritch Gentlewoman, fynding it somewhat difficult to obtaine any fauoure at her handes, sought to suppresse his fond affection, but could not, wherfore he wrighteth vnto her in effecte as followeth.

There is nothing in the vniuersall worlde, that maye more aptly be compared to the hatefull Hidra, then the painefull passions of lawlesse loue, for the Hidra being assayled by Hercules, alwayes when he cutte of one of his heades, there sprang two in the place of it: so loue, the more it is suppressed, the more it increaseth and groweth still the greater: as is plainly proued by me, though to my payne I reporte it, for considering on howe high a place my minde was setled, wherevnto to attaine without great perrill, I found it almost impossible, I sought by reason to remoone it, if I might, but loue so abounded, that reason bare no

sway and therefore being, ordeyned as it were by destiny to lyue and dye your loyall louer, and poore faythfull Seruaunte howesoeuer it shall please you to dispose of mee, yea, though I neuer gaine any grace at all at your hander, yet must I perforce still persuer in the same, what soeuer betyde me, desyring rather to dye to confyrme my constancye, then lyue and lacke your friendlye fauoure, whereby I am onely sustayned, knowing that when my vnhappye death, shall happen to come to youre hearing, it will moue such remorze in youre heare, considering that the cause proceedes from your selfe, as you cannot but be greatly greeued, for the small regarde you hadde of so faithfull a friend, and then, when it is to late will repent you of your great ingratitude.

Be not therefore so obstinately bent (I beseech you) to seeke his confusion that woulde accoumpte all payne but pleasure, which he shoulde suffer in seeking your safetye, consyder in what case your denine bewtye hath brought him, and be not so careleste of his welfare as you will suffer him to perishe for wante of pittie that cannot receiue any comforte but by your clemencye, which to denye him, weare extreame crueltye, and would procure your perpetuall infamy. The rather for that the remedye rested in you, and that my greefe being taken in time might be easily cured, to my comfort and your contentment, as you shal be forced in the end of your selfe to confesse, if you haue pittie vpon me, as I hope you will, wherein being fully resolued, I rest forever.

Your pore faithfull friend and obedient seruaunt.

The

The great loue that Itafernes wyfe bare to her brother.

When Itafernes with all his fauncie,
Were taken captiue By Darius army,
And cast into prison with great extremity,
His wife euery day,
Came to the kings gate making pitifull mone,
That these her plaints to take pittie vpon,
At last he bad aduise with mercye mone.
As wighters bad hir,
In so much as one vnto her he sent,
Who asked her then to the right good entent,
In the kings name to tell to samsat.
And freelye to shew
The bitterly brone, and the wonds hem haue,
Then she spoke the tender Wydow did crane,
Whose life and libertie she most sought to saue,
To lessen her woes.
The king then wondring that she would prefer
Her brother before the rest that were there,
Yet before her children and husband most deare,
This answere she gaue,
An other husband I may get quoth shee,
And other children I hope will be,
But my parentes being dead, more brethren then he,
I neuer can haue.

A Louer that loued an vnreasonable fraye, wrigheth this for answere to a Letter that he receyued from her whome he loued.

Mistres hauing receiued your letters which I reade once me to consider the I am thereby brought as it were into a labyrinth out of which I know not well

well how to winde me. Some time you giue me hope, and by and by crosse me with the contrary, your wordes are so obscure, as my simple capacitye cannot conceiue the meaning of them, plaine dealing is best among friendes, good meaning must not be couered with counterfet colour. I haue made you an honest demaund, but can receiue vncertaine aunswere of it; if you thinke mee vnworthye of you, let me vnderstand it in plaine speeches, and I will soone cease my sute, for if you cannot fancy me, I neither maye, nor will inforce you to it.

If you like of my demaunde, driue me not off with doubtfull delayes, for that is very dangerous.

Your vertuous education, and commendable qualityes, are the onely causes that haue constrained me to loue you, for the which I more esteeme you (being as you are) then otherwise I woulde doe, weare you neuer so welthye, you say my sute is reasonable, and yet ye repugne it as vnprofitable, you confesse me to be worthy of you, and yet refuse to render your selfe vnto me, being the partie, whome aboue all other I chiefely desyre, and would most willingly possesse, if so it pleased you. In deede I confesse, that good deliberation and earnest consideration is to bee had in so waighty a cause which I had in remembraunce, before I made anye motion thereof vnto you, yet if there bee anye thing that I haue neglected, if you would let me vnderstād wherein, and what it is, it should be better respected, and being amisse, most willingly amended. And whereas you refuse to yeeld your consent without the counsel of others, to aske councel in any thing, it is commendable, and to follow it (if it be good) is right profitable, but whose counsell you craue I know not, vnless it be your parentes, which if it be, the same I hope will not be contrary to my contentation: yet do I not so much depend vpon that, as I will shewe secrete reasons, before I haue assayed you, I haue some assurance of you, how the thing I seeke for, which is only in you to procure, and without you cannot be

obteined

obteyned, or if it be, it must be by compulsion, & then were a mā better be without such forced matches: haue neuer good effect: But peraduenture you haue some further purpose in it, then I am privy vnto, it may be that you imagin my good will to be grounded vpon so light an occasyon, as gaining my purpose, I would quickly flie from my former professions, make more haste in the matter then reason requyreth, or vse some other meanes to bring your purpose expectation, but how farre my good meaning is from their imaginations, God and myne owne conscience only knoweth. you challenge me as if I had been ouer lauishe of my language in blazing things abroad, that are not yet brought to passe which if I should doe (as I take God to witnesse. I haue not) I might worthely be condemned for a foole, & serue as a laughing stocke to all men, that shal see it fal out otherwise hereafter. And therefore I beseech you put such imaginations out of your minde, and condemn me not as guiltye before you haue cause to accuse me. And in conclusion I hartily beseech you, not to trifle out the time anye longer, but to render me a ready answere to that whiche I demaund of you, howsoeuer it be, I passe not, for I can better brooke a flat refusall, then suffer my selfe to be fedde with foolish hope, for a thing so vncertaine: and therefore where subtilely you say at the foote of your letter (yours, for so it may be) hencefoorward either refuse me flatly or else put downe plainely in the place of it (yours I am & wilbe) so shall you both satisfy me sufficiently, and also greatlye ease your self of the trouble that my tedious writing (if so you accounpte it doth presentlye put you vnto, and so fare you well.

The straunge pangs of a pore passionate Louer.

NOt as I am, nor as I wish to be,
But as falce Fortune frames my froward fate,

Euen

Euen so I am not bound nor fully free
Not quite forlorne, nor yet in quiet state,
I wish for death, and yet the death I hate,
This life leade I, which life is wondrous straunge,
yet for no life would I my lyfe exchaunge,
I seeke the light of that I sigh to see,
I ioy in that which breedes my greatest hurte,
Such contraries doe daily combate me,
As in one thing I find both ioy and rest.
Which gaine he gets that is Cupidos guest,
For whome he catcheth in his curled snare,
He giues great hope yet kils his hart with care.

Finis.

Of the thankefulnesse of a Dragon towardes a man that had brought him vp.

AS Bruson mention makes,
one Thoas in his youth
Brought vp a Dragon yong,
and of a certaine mouth,
whereas he greater grew,
fearing his nature foll,
Conuaide himselfe into a wood,
and left him there to dwell.
It happed after Thoas was,
within that wood beset
with many Theeues, at which selfe time
not making stay to let,
when as the Dragon heard his voyce,
which he remembred tho,
He rushed forth and rescued him,
from those that wisht his wo.

Finis.

&c.

R. D. Being inflamed with the loue of a very beautifull Gentlewoman, by a sodaine view that he tooke of her, doth colourably declare his case vnto her.

AS late I walkte abrode for my delight
To put all foolish fancies from my minde,
It was my chaunce vpon a plot to light,
Wherein I did great cause of comfort fynde.
A goodly Garden garnisht euery where,
with fragrant flowers of sondry sort and sent,
No straunge deuice could be that wanted there,
That euer wit of man might well inuent.
A goodly christall spring ran through this place,
whose bankes with sundry trees was brauely deckt,
To shew ech thing by course, would crane long space,
And yet some part I should of force neglect,
But that which made me most of all to muse,
was to behold ech thing so well rounde,
And could not finde that any one did vse,
To make abode therein, yet halfe afrayde
(Though cause were none) I durst not enter in.
But stoode as one amasde, this sight to see,
That whosoeuer then had present bene,
would not haue thought that life had lodgde in me,
My sences failde, my feete were fixed fast,
My sight wart dimme, yet staring stoode I still,
But comming to my selfe againe at last,
And seing there no signe of any ill,
Nor none that would my passage once restraine,
But that the gates wide open stoode to all:
I banisht feare which earst procurde my paine,
And did determine what so should befall,
To enter in, and view it rounde about,
And so I did in deede without anoyt,

For nothing was there which I neede to doubt,
But all thynges ranne vnto my ſeeble ioy.
when as I fully had eyeſhte ſurueide,
And led my fancy as it likte me beſt,
Into an Arbour I my ſelfe conueide.
And there lay downe to take my quiet reſt,
Into a heauy ſleepe ſtraight waies I fell,
And then me thought there did appeare in place
Two gallant Dames, whoſe beawty did excell,
whereof the one beholding long my face,
At laſt with ſtealing ſteppes approcht more neare,
And drawing forth a knyfe in dreadfull wiſe,
Did pierce the part which I eſteemde moſt deare,
which done from of the ground ſhe gan to ryſe,
And by and by did vaniſh out of ſight,
which way or how, I could not well perceiue,
Wherewith I wakened (being ſore affright)
So much it did my quiet reſt bereaue,
And then my naked body I behilde,
To ſee if any wounds would there appeare,
But euery place with fleſh was fully filde,
No wound was ſeene, eche place was fayre and cleare,
But when I roſe, with mynd to walke from thence,
Such grilly greefe did gripe my tender hart,
As for a time it hindred my preſence,
And feeld that place I ſcarce had power to part,
yet as I could, although my pace were ſlowe,
I at my lodging did at laſt arriue,
And layde me downe in greefe which ſtill did grow,
And greater ware, and vnhappy bothe deprriue,
I ſought Philitions helpe, my hurt to heale,
But Philick could as yet at all preuaile.
And therefore ſtill I muſt the ſame conceale,
And as a wight forlorne my woe bewayle,
Vntill the louely Dame that did the deede.
Vouchſafe her grace to eaſe my preſent greefe.

An

In her it lyes my bitter bale to meede,
Or if she pleale to render me releefe,
which if she once refuse I am right sure,
My lothed lyfe that hope doth now prolong,
Shall not long time be able to indure,
But die I must, because she doth me wrong.
Finis.

An answere to a Letter that was not onely darke, but also so disordered, as their could no sence be perceiued in it.

VNlooked for, I did receiue of late,
Such lynes as led me into double doubt,
Fyrst whence they came, and from what minyon mate,
And secondly I mused whereabout,
And for what cause they should to me be sent,
But when I had perusde them euer well,
was neare the neare in knowing thy intent,
For such a senceleste tale thou framdste to tell,
And so confuse, as what I should conceiue,
Of any part thereof I knew not I.
To stayed Studientes I the same will leaue,
By learned skill the secrete sence to trie,
Unleste that thou that didst deuise the same,
wilt take the paines to glose vpon the text,
And set to shew the figures thou didst frame,
Whereby it seemes thy mind is much perplext.
For neither doth the matter match aright,
Nor yet the verse but varries euery where,
I speake in sport, no cause I haue to spight,
And as thou wisht, so with thy want I beare,
Loue is a lawlesse Lord, both he and his
Are free from blame what so they doe or say,
And therefore though they sometime come amis,
That once haue learnde to his luckelesse lay.

The fault is in the ſoward wittes they ſeeke,
which leades their mindes to like of many thinges,
And ſtill to turne as doth the whirling wheele,
whereof the fruicte of folly freely ſpringes.
Thy worthy worke may well compared be,
Vnto A building brauely ſeene without,
The inward partes whereof who ſo ſhall ſee,
May finde it framde of clay and durt no doubt,
For on the ſame when fyrſt myne eyes I bent,
The entraunce bare ſo braue a mooſtly,
That ſure I thought ſome Muſe the ſame had ſent
From Helicon to pleaſe my fantaſy,
But when I had a little further paſt,
Such paltrie pelfe preſented was to me,
As braue me into other thoughtes at laſt,
So great a chaunge ſo ſodainly to ſee,
But borrowed weare will beare no better ſhow,
An Ape's an Ape, though robes be neare ſo ritche,
The good from bad a wiſe man may eaſily know,
This makes thee cloy to heeras thou doeſt not itch,
well galdback well although I rubde thee now,
If that thou winche, I way it not a might,
Such cloked cunning can I not allow,
Halt not henceforth when Cripples are in ſight,
For truſt to this thy Peacockes borrowed tayle,
Cannot ſo craftely be caught on thee,
But that the fine deuice thereof will fayle,
If it be matcht with thoſe that kindly be,
In fine I wiſhe thee if thy mind be moude,
To heare the matter more at large let out,
which to prouoke thou haſt ſo blindlye proude,
Then make it plaine, and cleare it cleane of doubt.
Let finenesſe goe and vſe no ſecrets ſlight,
To couer that which cannot be conſealde,
And then will I as well pluck vp my ſpyghtes,
To open that I haue not yet reuealde,

C. L. Wrighting to a speciall Friende of his, that was somewhat greeued in minde, for certaine troubles that were happened vnto him, geueth him such friendly consolation as was riquisite for one in his case.

SIr I am well assured, that in seeking to giue councell to one so wise, and consolation to one of such constancy as you are, I shall rather reape reproch for my rashnes then anye waies purchase praise for my good meaning.

And although you that know what cause moued mee thereunto, doe not so conceiue it, yet they that shall heare reporte thereof, being ignoraunte of the greate good will that I beare vnto you, will be ready to imagine the worste of it.

But let them thinke what they list, I had rather that all others shoulde accuse me of presumtion, then that you should haue iust cause to condemne me of ingratitude, or thinke my friendship to be of small effect. And therefore though that I wright, be not such as should seeme to proceede from a man indued with greate learning, and wisedome, yet being well assured that whatsoeuer it bee, you will acceptablely receiue it, and conster it to the best, I will not fayle either by that or any other meane I may, at all times to manifest my good meaning vnto you, and the willing minde I haue to doe you good, so farre forth as my weake witte and small habilitye can reach vnto. It is not at al to be doubted, but ẏ miseries that raine in this wretched world are very many, and very great, but as they are necessary meanes to make vs knowe our selues, and acknowledge the weaknesse of our humaine nature, so should wee pacientlye tollerate the troublesome toyles

and tormentes thereof, as it is the part of a wyse and well disposed person alwayes to doe.

What though you be now forbidden the court where you haue long time lyued in great estimation: will you therfore so vnmeasurably vex & torment your selfe, as though your sorrow should neuer take end. It were no doubte a thing cleane contrary to your wisedome & grauitie, and would be a great disgrace to your nobls nature, & the haughtinesse of your liberall hart, to be found vnable by the rule of reason to resist the fierce assaultes of froward Fortune: For as in time of prosperity you gouerned your selfe with great modesty, so should you now that the contrary is happened, be armed with as great patience to sustaine the sensible and sorrowfull euents that this wretched world rendreth vnto all them that therein haue their abiding. Allwee your selfe that those of your frendes which do remain in the court, are well contented that you haue so forsaken it, without hope euer to retourne againe, not because they are willing to wante youre companye, for that is the thing they cheefely couet. but because they knowe the misery of that place to bee suche, as it shoulde rather bee shunned, then sought for by all those that loue to leade a quiet and peaceable life.

And I am well assured, that if you had the power to enter into the hartes of men to search their secrete thoughtes you should find those of the Court accompanied with such continuall cares, frighted with such fearefull fancies, and fraught with such follyes, subiect to so many daungerous discommodities and perplexed with suche straunge and perrillous passions, as you your selfe since your departure from the Court neuer allayed the lyke, but would bee forced to confesse that their greefes doe farre surmount your owne.

Now by how much more greeuous and difficult it is to see then to heare those thinges that molest the mynde if by meanes of the miseries & callamities of this wretched

world

worlde, which so greatly disturbeth the quiet state of all earthly creatures, you suppose one place more painefull and troublesome to continue in then an other, by so much should you thinke the same to be in the Courte rather then any where else: for surely so it is, as your selfe know right well, what semblaunce soeuer you seeme to make to the contrary. But you wright sometime like a Gnato enforced of necessitye either to praise that whiche is praise worthy, or to doe that which is not decent, but deseruing great blame: both which are cleane contrary to your naturul inclination. Such is the wretchednesse of our age, that euery one esteemeth his owne estate to be most miserable, what though men dispoyle you of those transitory riches which Fortune sometime gaue you in great abounda nce, yet can they not bereaue you of that rare and renowned riches, to wete, the excellent vertues of the mynde, whiche God and Nature hath so graciously graffed in you from the beginning, as they cannot by any meanes be altered or chaunged but do continually grow and increase in you, & are sufficiente though all thinges else were wanting, for a hart conducted by honour, and gouerned by reason, to liue wel and happily withall.

Thus much haue I thought good to write vnto you to make proofe of your wisedome, to the end she should again restore into her handes the reine of reason, which she had of late let slip, whereby you were driuen for waute of her good guiding to wander out of the right way, whiche you haue so long inducenced to follow. I pray you wright oftener vnto me, but let your letters conteine more myrth. then those that heretofore you haue sent mee, to the ende that I may finde for my satisfaction that my words were of the force to remoue from you al careful cogitations, and fill your mynde with ioy and gladnesse, praying the Almighty to graunt you your health and hartes desyre in all thinges.

Finis.

A yong Gentleman whose loue was hindred by false reportes, wrighteth to his Lady that had promised her good will, so her friendes would agree vnto it.

THe poore wearied Trauayler that after long sayling the Seas in no small daunger, and at the last attaineth to the wished Hauen, is blowne backe againe and brought into greater perrils then before, may most easily iudge the greatnesse of my greefes, who being raised to the toppe of all felicity by the fauour I found at your friendly hands for furtherance of my desyred comforte, I am nowe by myne owne euill destenye & the malice of malicious make-bates, who more respecting their owne priuate profit then honest reputation, the rather to preferre those that they like better of, haue raised such slanderous reports against me, vtterly voyde of truth, as haue mooued them to mislyke, that of late liked well of me, wherby I am driuen into such dangerous doubtes, as if your good nature (which I know cannot conceiue any ill of them that deserue wel) did not somewhat relieue me, all hope of comforte would quickly die in me, and my cares so greatly abound, as my harte should neuer be able to harbour such ioy as is meete for my yong yeares.

Your mother as I heare, is so insensed against mee, as notwithstanding the many reasons alleaged, and playne proofes made to the contrary, she will not reuoke that euill opinyon which the false perswasions of lewde persons hath caused her vniustly to conceiue of me, but let her or any other thinke of me what they list, so long as I knowe my self cleare of crime, and may be assured of your fauour I care not if all the world were bent against me, for as you are the first that euer my fancy could frame to lyke of, so I assure you, if my faithfull meaning find not good effecte

courtesy, which was so greatly commended, hoping that as the least, you will afoord me a friendly answere, though I fayle of that which may better content me. I know ther be many of greater wealth that you maye match withal if you will, but I am certaine that if you shoulde seeke throw out the whole worlde it were not possible for you to fynde one that would so well account of you, or be more carefull for your commodity then I would be, if it might be my good happe to inioy you, with whome you might be assured to lead a more quiet and better contented lyfe, then with one whose parentes hath left him a large patrimony, of euill gotten goods, which is commonly as ill spent. And therefore if there be in me that may contente you, or if your fancy can frame to lyke of mee as I am, let mee fynde it by your friendly aunswere, whiche I wil expect with assured hope to find it in all thinges agreeable to my good desyres, that greatly couet to be accoumpted.

Wholy yours, or not to be at all.

Finis.

Seigneor Francisco Vergelis, for a fayr ambling gelding, suffered one Seigneor Richardo Magniffico to talk with his wife, who gaue him no aunswere at all, but he aunswering for her, in such sort as if she her self had spoken it, according to the effect of his wordes, it came afterwards to passe.

MAny there are that conceiue so well of themselues, as in respect of their owne wisedome and knowledge, they thinke all other men to be but fooles, and voyd of vn-

dissembling, and yet we our selues see, those that haue
seldome, whilst they pretend not by their indirect deuises to
deceiue others, are in the ende most deceiued themselues.
And therefore in any opinion he is worthy much blame,
that goeth about by such indirect meanes, to make more
narrow search of other mens wiues then is needefull. And
for more perfect proofe of their folly, you shall heare what
happened to a Knight of Pistoy, vpon the like occasion.

In the Citie of Pistoy hard by Florence, there was some
time amongst the family of the Vergelesies, a Knight cal-
led Fransisco, a man very rich, wise, and well experienced
in many matters, but therewithall beyonde all measure
couetous. Hee hauing occasion to goe to Millan to
be Potentat there, was prouided of all thinges fitte for
his purpose, and agreeable to the honorable estate he was
called vnto, saue onely of an ambling Gelding, for himself
to ride vpon, and could get none to his contentmente, but
that he alwaye thought the price to great that he should
pay for it. There was the same time in Pistoy a yong man
named Richardo, descended of a base parentage, but yet very
riche who for the neatnesse and brauery that he vsed in his
apparrell, was of euery man cõmonly called Magnifico,
& had of long time loued, & diuerse times courted (without
any comforte of that he craued) the wife of Seignior Fran-
sisco, that was exceeding fayre, & withall very honest.

Now it so happened, that this Magnifico had the fayrest
ambling gelding in all Tuscan, which for the beawty and
goodnesse of it, he highly esteemed. And being manifestlye
knowne, throughout the citie, that he was enamoured of
the sayde Lady, there was some that told Seignior Fran-
sisco yᵗ if he would request it in gift, he might easily obtain
it for the loue he bare vnto his wife. Seignior Fransisco
burning with anirice, sent to seeke Magnifico, and requi-
red to buy his horse, to the end her shoulde offer to giue it
him. Magnifico hearing this, was very well pleased, and
answered, Syr if you would giue me all that euer you

her the world I would not sell him, but yet you may haue him (if it please you) vpon the condition, that before you [illegible] with your leaue, and your presence [illegible] to your wiues sight, that no one may be present but only the foresayd Francisco being led by two torches, and hoping to include Magnifico, answered that he was very welcome vnto her whensoeuer he would, and hauing left him in the hall, shee went to his wiues Chamber and told her howe easily shee might obtaine the ambling Geldyng, commanding her to come and heare what Magnifico would say, but not to answere him to any thing that her shoulde alledge vnto her. The Ladye misliked much of this practise, but yet being bound to obay her husbandes mind, she promised to do it, and followed him into the Hall, to heare what Magnifico would say.

Who hauing againe confyrmed the conclusion, made with her husband, set himself downe by her, in one of the Corners of the hall, farre ynough from any body, and began to say in this maner.

Madame, I know your wisedome to be such, as I am well assured you haue long since plainely perceiued how great the loue is, that your beawty (which passeth without comparison all other that euer I saw) hath constrained mee to beare vnto you, I cease to speake of the commendable qualities and rare vertues that remain in you, whiche haue power to vanquish the most hawty hart in the whole world, wherefore it is not needefull by wordes to declare vnto you, that the loue I beare you, is farre greater and more feruent, then euer man bare to any other woman liuing, whereby I am almost brought to that passe, that my miserable life is scarcely able to sustaine my poore weakened members, and yet dare I be bolde to saye more vnto you, that if it be lawfull for men to loue when they are dead, as they may doe being aliue, I will loue you for euer.

And therefore you may well assure youre selfe, that you haue nothing whatsoeuer it be, either deare or good cheape that you may so well esteeme your owne, or make so sure accompt of, as of me, and of that I may be, and semblably of al that euer I inioy, and to the end you may be the more certain of that I say, I assure you I should accompt it for a singuler fauour that you would vouchsafe to commaund me any thing that I am able any way to performe, and may be agreeable to your good liking, for whatsoeuer it were, though all the world should saye and sweare the contrarie I would surely put it in practise.

Now Madame being so muche youre owne, as you heare I am, I take boldnesse (not without great reason) to addresse my prayers to your highnesse, on whome onelye, and on none other, my rest welth and safety wholy dependeth, and as your most humble seruaunt, I humbly beseech you, my dearest good & ỹ only hope of my loue, which nourisheth it selfe in the amourous syze, hoping in you, that your good will shall be great, and your rigour (whiche you haue of long time extended towardes mee that am youre own,) so mollified, that feeling my selfe recomforted by your compassion, I may say that as by your bewtye I became amourous, so doe I thereby also inioy the lyfe (which if your hauty hart incline not to my prayers) would without doubt be in such sort consumed, as I should shortelye dye, and so might you be called and accounpted the Murtherer of me, and yet should my death be no honor at al vnto you, notwithstanding I beleeue that when at any time, the same should come to youre hearing, you woulde saye to your selfe.

Alas what euill haue I done, in not hauing compassyon of my Magnifico, and being then to late to repente you of any thing that is past, it will be vnto you an occasion of very great greefe. Wherfore to the end that it come not so to passe, haue now some compassion vpon mee, and before I be past remedy, render me that which may releue

me,

me, for in you onelye doth it rest to make mee the moste contented, or most discontented Creature liuing, hoping alwayes that your curtesy shall be so great, as you will not suffer me to receiue death, for recompence of suche and so great good will, as I beare vnto you, but will with a ioyfull and gracious aunswere, reconforte my poore spirightes which altogither ouercome with feare, doe tremble at your presence.

Then Magnifico making an ende, and hauing shedde some teares, after many greeuous sighes, he began to harken what the Lady wold answere, now she whom neither the long sutes made vnto her, the Iustes and Turneyes, nor lost time, or anye such like thing which Magnifico had done, for the loue of herre, had neuer before moued anye thing at all to loue him, was nowe moued thereunto by the effectuall woords vttered by her moste feruente Louer, and began to feele that which she had neuer felt before, and iudged this to proceede only of loue, and though to fulfill the charge that her husbande had giuen her, shee held her peace, notwithstanding by the secret sighes which she sent forth it might easilye bee coniectured what aunswere she would willingly haue made to her beloued Magnifico, if she might.

He hauing a while attended her aunswere, and perceiuing that shee aunswered nothing at all, greatlye meruailed, and beganne to perceiue the deceipte and subtiltie of her husband, but yet in regarding her countinance and perceiuing some glaunces of her eyes cast vpon him, & besides that, remembring the sighes which shee sent forth from the bottome of her hart, he receiued some good hope, And building hereuppon bethought himselfe, and then began to aunswere her, as though she her selfe had sayde, in this manner.

Friend Magnifico, I did long since surmise that thy loue towardes me was very great and perfecte, and nowe am more certaine of it by thy woords, whiche are of farre

greater

greater sorte, where with I am as well contented as may be, notwithstanding it is true vnto thee, that I haue hetherto bene hard and cruell vnto thee, yet wouldst I not haue thee to thinke that any harte hath bene suche as my countinance hath shewed me to be, but rather y I haue loued and held thee more deare, then any other, but it was meete I should for a time conceale it as well for feare of others, as to keepe my good name vnspotted, but now the time commeth, that I may make thee more plainely to vnderstand whether I loue thee or no, and giue thee a meete guerdon for the loue which thou hast so long borne vnto me. Wherefore comfort thy selfe, and haue good hope, for Seigneor Francisco must go within these fewe dayes, as Potentate to Millan as thou thy selfe knowest, when thou for my sake hast giuen him thy good ambling Gelding, and so soone as he is gone, thou shalt be most welcome vnto me, and we will then giue full accomplishment to our loue, and therefore haue regarde from henceforth, when thou findest two kercheifes hanging out of my chamber windowe ouer the garden, and then in the Euening, when it is somewhat darke, repaire thou vnto me, by the garden doore, hauing good regarde that no body see thee, there thou shalt finde me ready to receiue thee, then will we take our pleasure togither all the whole night, and make as greate cheare as we may.

When Magnifico had in the person of the Lady spoken all this, he began to aunswere for himselfe and sayde.

Deare Lady, my spirites are so much occupied by the aboundaunt ioy that I conceiue by your wordes, that I can hardlye frame an aunswere or vtter anye thing, to giue you condigne thankes for the same, and if I could, yet should I not finde sufficient tearmes to gratifie youre good will as I desyre, and as it is meete I should, and therfore I beseeche you, that what soeuer I desyre to do, (as cannot by wordes declare it) you will vouchsafe to conceiue the same in youre minde. Only I assure you, that without faile I will

will perfoꝛme youꝛ charge, & oꝛder all my actions accoꝛding to youꝛ good direction, and when meete oppoꝛtunity shall seꝛue me, to receiue the fauour whiche you haue so freely pꝛomised, I wil infoꝛce my self in all I may, to yeeld you the greatest thankes that I am able. And now hauing no moꝛe to saye vnto you at this pꝛesente, wishing you such ioy and welfare as youꝛ hart deꝛyꝛeth, I commit you to God.

Foꝛ all this the Lady answered not a woꝛd wheꝛefoꝛe Magnifico ꝛose & began to retourne towards her husband who seeing him vp, went to meete him, and sayd O syꝛ, what thinke you nowꝛ thans I kept pꝛomise with you? No syꝛ answeꝛed Magnifico, foꝛ you pꝛomised me that I should talk with youꝛ wife, & you haue made me to speake with an Image of stone.

This answeꝛe greatly pleased Seigneor Fransisco, who although he had a good opinion of his wife befoꝛe, yet now he thought better of her then euer he did, and said: but yet the ambling gelding that was yours, is nowe myne. wheꝛevnto Magnifico answeꝛed: yea syꝛ, but if I had thought to reape no better fruite then this, by the fauour I found at youꝛ handes, without demaunding the same, I would freely haue giuen you my Gelding.

And would to God I had done so in deede, foꝛ then had I not in selling him, bought mine owne soꝛꝛow, noꝛ in seeking safety, lost my foꝛmer liberty.

Seigneor Fransisco laughed hartely at this answeꝛe, and seing himself so wel pꝛouided of an ambler. shoꝛtly after set foꝛward on his ioꝛney towardes Millan.

The Lady then remayning in her house all alone, thinking vpon the woꝛdes that Magnifico had befoꝛe time vsed vnto her, remembꝛing his loue, and how he had foꝛ her sake, giuen her Husband his good ambling Gelding, seing also the sayd Magnifico diuerse times to passe to and fro befoꝛe her doꝛe, she said vnto her selfe.

what shall I doe? wheꝛefoꝛe should I lose my youth? my

hand is gone to Millan, and will not returne again these fiue moneths, and when will he euer be able to paye his arreages, what when I am old and care not for it: besides that, when shall I euer finde such a friende as Magnifico? I am now alone, and in feare of no body, and if it were knowne, yet is it better to doe it; and afterwarde to repent me: then not to be desirous, and to be sorrye that I did it not.

And hauing thus debated with her self, in the end determining to take the time whilst it serued: she hanged one day two Kercheses out at the Garden windowe, whiche Magnifico perceiuing (being very glad of it) he went all secretely so soone as the night was come to the garden doore, and found it open, and from thence went to another doore which was at the entraunce of the house, where he mette with the Lady that attended his comming, who seing him come, rose vp, and went to meete him, and receiued him with great ioy, she hauing kissed and imbraced him an hundred times, followed her vp the staires into her chamber, where hauing arriued, they went by and by to bedde together, and then they knew the fyrst end of their ioye. And although this were the fyrste time, yet was it not the last. For whilst Seignor Francisco was at Millan, and also after his returne, Magnifico frequented the house, to the great comfort and contentment of them both.

Finis.

Theodore

Theodore enamoured of Maister Emeries daughter, that was his Maister, got her with child, for the which he was condemned to be hanged, and as he was whipped through the Streets to the place of execution, being knowne to his Father he procured his pardon, and so Theodore married the maide whom he had before deflowred.

Whereby is signified the diuers dangerous and troublesome accidents that daily happen to men, by the power of loue, and daily offer vnto them to torment the hearts of mans life.

IN what time the good King William gouerned Sicille, there was dwelling within his dominions a yong Gentleman, named Maister Emery, by the Abbot of Trapany, who amongst other worldly goods had (indued him) with many fayre children, wherfore hauing great needs of Seruaunts, as he came from the east partes, certaine Gallies of Genowaies Pirats, who in rifling Arabia, had taken diuerse yong children, whome they ment to make money of, being arriued in the Country of Leuant, at the same time that he passed thereby, he bought certaine of them, thinking they had bene Infidels, amongest whom though the rest seemed to be but Sheapheardes, there was one that appeared to be proceeded of a higher progenye, and to bee of more estimation, whose name highte Theodore, who being growne to mans state, (though he were vsed as a Slaue) was notwithstanding brought vp, and nourished with maister Emeries owne Children, and inclining more to his naturall disposition then to his present Fortune, he began to be very vertuous, and well condicioned, whereby he so much pleased maister Emery, as hee

made him free, and for that he thought him to be an Infidel, caused him to be baptised, and named him Peter. And so good assurance he had in him, that shortly after, he committed to his charge all his most waighty affayres.

Now as Maister Emeries Children increased, amongst the rest, a daughter of his waxing very fayre and dellicat, after she had long remained unmaried, seing her parets so slow in bestowing her, at the last she fell very far in loue with Peter her fathers man: and as she estemed him greatly, and tooke delight in all his doings, so was she determined (if shame had not withheld her) to giue him understanding of it. But loue eased her of that pain: For Peter having thereby conceiued some secrete hope, became so enamoured of her, as he neuer thought himselfe well without her company, notwithstanding her was still in greate feare leaste some body should perceiue it, thinking that therein he did amisse.

The Mayde that easily perceiued his inwarde meaning, the better to imbolden him, made semblance vnto him (as it was true in deede,) that she allowed of his loue, and was well contented with it.

And in these tearmes either of them remained long time without daring to say any thing vnto the other, though they both desired it very earnestly. But whilst they equally consumed in this amourous flame, Fortune (as if she had willed that which came to passe) found out a way to expel the feare, that so greatly hindred them. Which was, that Maister Emery had not far from the towne of Trappani, a very fayre house, whereunto his wife, with his Daughter and diuerse other their friends and familliers, resorted often times to passe the time, and make merrye togither; and one day amongst the rest, Peter being with her, after they had remayned there a while, it happened, (as diuerse times it doth in the sommer season) that the weather ouercast, wherefore the Gentlewoman and her company, (because the storme should not take them there) prepared them

selues

selues with all speede to returne to Trappany. But Peter and Violenta that were yong and lusty (peradventure no lesse pricke forward by loue, then for feare of the foule wether) so farre out rid all the rest of their company, that they were cleane out of sight, after a little thunder, there came sodainely a great Hayle, and withall a foule foggy mist, which caused the old Gentlewoman and all her company to goe back againe with a Pesant of the countrey. But Peter and the mayde hauing none other refuge, but an old ruinate house, that was almost al fain to the ground, where no body inhabited, they were forced to enter into it, and there vnder a small couerture, that was yet remaining, they closely couched themselues, to defende the storme, which close couching was an occasion more fyrmely to vnite their hartes, and also the time and place aptly seruing them to discouer their amourous passions. Peter gaue the first onset, and said:

Mistresse Violenta I would to God that it woulde neuer leane hayling, and that I might still continue in this estate.

Whereunto Violenta replied: Surelye so woulde I, and then taking eche other by the hand, and afterwards imbracing and sweetelye kissing (the Storme still continuing) before they departed from thence they inioyed the finall fruition of their vnfained affection, determining after that more often to take their pleasure togither.

At the last the storme ceased, and then they went to the next towne, where they attended the comming of the reste of their company, that they might go home altogither, and after this, diuerse times in a wise and secret manner, they exercised their loue, & so applyed their businesse, that Violenta grew bigge, whiche greatly displeased either of them, wherefore she vsed al the meanes she might, to find remedy for it, but it preuailed not.

And therefore Peter fearing to lose his lyfe, determined to take his flight, and told her of it, which Violenta

lent a hunting, swore vnto them if he went away, she would slay her self. Then Peter that loued her exceeding well sayd vnto her, Alas my deare, why wouldst thou haue me tarry, thy greatnesse will discouer our offence, which being known, thou maist easily procure thy pardon, but I poore wretch shall abide the punishment both for thy offence and mine own: whereunto Violenta answered, Peter my offence must needes be known in deede, but as for thine assure thy self (if thou bewray it not) it shal neuer be known to any. Seeing you promise me so (said Peter,) I will tarry, but take heede you keepe promise with me. Violenta that had couered her crimes so much as she might, perceiuing her belly grew so bigge as she could no longer hide it, discouered the same one day to her mother, weping bitterly, & besought her to saue her life, her mother grieued hereat beyond measure, & with a thousand threatnings demanding who was the author of it, Violenta to the end that Peter should receiue no hurt thereby, faines an excuse altogether contrary to y truth, which her mother beleeuing, & ashamed her daughters fault, sent her to a house that she had in the country, being there when the time was come y she should be brought a bed (crying as women vse to doe) & her mother not thinking that maister Emery (who seldom vsed to passe that way) would then come thither, it happened that as he returned from hunting, and passed along by y chamber where Violenta remained, he louingly entred in, marualling to heare her cry in that maner, & demaunded what the matter was: his wife seing him there, rose vp in great greefe, & told him all that was happened to their daughter, but hee (not so credulous as his wife) knew it was not possible she should be in that case, and not know who was the author of it, & therfore would vnderstand the truth, for (said he) she may peraduenture purchase my fauour, where otherwise, she must make account to dye without pity. His wife (as long as she might, to satisfy her husband, with that which her daughter had sayd, but all

her

her perswasions prevailed not, for running furiously with his naked sword in his hand to his daughter (who whilste her mother held him in talk,) brought forth her childe, and said vnto her, Tell me who is the father of this child, or else thou shalt presently die. His daughter dreading death, brake the promise which shee made vnto Peter, and tolde him how it happened. Maister Emery hearing it, became so desperate through extreame anger, that hee could hardly withhold his handes from killing her.

But after hee had sayde that whiche choller constrained him to speake, hee tooke his horse, and ridde to Frappany.

And hauing recounted all the iniury that Peter had done him, to one Maister Conrade, that was Lieftenant for the King in the same Towne, hee sodaynely caused Peter to be taken, before hee doubted it, and examining him of the matter, hee confessed all that was done. And being within a fewe dayes after condemned by the Lieftenant, to be whipped through the Townes, and afterwards hanged.

Maister Emery (to the ende to ridde the world at one instaunt of the two poore Louers, and their sillye infant) not hauing yet appeased his his wrath, by the death of Peter, which he had so procured, hee put poyson into a cuppe of wine, and deliuerd it to a seruaunt of his whom he most trusted, and withall a naked Sworde, saying.

Goe thy wayes with these to Violenta and will her in my name to chose one of these two deaths, either of poyson or of the Sworde, if not, I will cause her to bee burnt, in the face of the world, as she hath well deserued, and when thou haste so done, take the brattes that she hath brought forth, and hauing dashed out his braines against the wall, cast him out to be deuoured of Dogges.

When hee hadde giuen this cruell Sentence against his Daughter, and his little Nephew, the Seruaunt more

more apt to doe ill then good, went to the place where Violenta remained.

Peter being condemned as you haue harde, was drawne & whipped toward the gallowes, & so passing forward (as it pleased thē, ỳ were the ministers of iustice) ouer against an Inne, where at the same time were lodged three greate personages of Armenia whome the King of that country had sent to Rome as Ambassadors to the Pope, about certaine necessary affayres, for a voyage that he had in hande. and being come thither to refresh and repose themselues for certaine dayes and greatly honoured of all the gentlemen of Trappany, and especiallye of Mayster Emery.

These Embassadoures hearing them to passe by, that ledde Peter, came to the windowe to see what was the matter.

Peter that was all naked from the girdle vpward, with his handes bound behind him, being diligentlye marked by one of them, that was a man of good yeares, and greate authority, named Phinee his blood began to rise through a certain natural motion that he felt within himselfe, which perceiuing he remembred him of his onelye sonne that about .xv. yeares before was taken from him by certaine Rouers, on the sea coste of Iasa of whome since that tyme he neuer had hard tidinges, and considering the age of the poore vnhappy wretch, whome they whipped, hee aduised him that if his sonne were liuing hee shoulde bee of the age that he seemed to be, wherefore seing his bosome, he began to suspecte that it was his sonne, and thinking that if it were he, he would yet haue some remembraunce of his owne name and his Fathers, and of the Armenian tong.

wherefore when he was ouer against him, hee called him by the name of Theodore which Peter hearing, by and by lifte vp his head, and then Phinee speaking to him in the Armenian tongue, sayd.

Of whence and whose sonne art thou? The Sergeaunts that

that led him, stayed in reuerence of the Ambassadoures, so that Peter answered, I am of Arminia, the sonne of one named Phinee, and was brought hether by certaine people, I know not of what country.

Which Phinee hearing knewe certainly that it was his sonne whom he had lost, wherfore weeping, he came down with his companyons, and ran to imbrace him, amongest all the Sergeauntes, and hauing cast ouer his shoulders a riche mantle that he bore about him, requested them that led him to let him lose, and stay the execution, till they heard further of the matter, whereunto they willingly accorded, and led him backe againe to the place from whence he came.

Now had Phinee by this time knowledge of the cause, for the which they led him in this sort to hanging, by the speeche of the people, wherefore he wente incontinentlye with his Companions and seruauntes, to mayster Conrade, and said vnto him.

Syr, he whome you sende to be executed as a Slaue, is a free man, and my sonne, and is readye to take to hys wyfe, her whome they say he hath defloured, may it therefore please you to remit the execution, till it be knowne whether she will haue him to her husband, to the end it be not found (if she be content) that you haue transgressed the Lawe.

Maister Conrade hearing that he was the sonne of this Ambassador, marualed greatly, and imputing great fault to Fortune, confessed that which Phinee had sayde, to be moste true: So he retourned incontinently to his house, and sent one with all speede, to seeke Maister Emery, and to tell him all that was happened, mayster Emery, that thought his Daughter and her yong sonne were alredye dead, was the heauiest man in the world, for that which he had done, knowing well that if she were not dead, all that was amis might now be amended, wherfore he sent with all speede to the place where his Daughter remained, to

the end that if they had not fulfilled his commaundement they shoulde not do it at all, he that went thither, founde the seruaunt that maister Emery had sent thither, who hauing set the swoord and poyson before his Daughter, because shee made no haste to take the one not the other, vsed manye threatnings against her, and would haue constrained her to take one of them.

But when he heard the commaundment of his maister, he let her alone, and retourning vnto him, tolde him howe the case stoode.

Maister Emery very well contented with it, wente to the Ambassadour Prince, and weeping, excused himselfe so well as he could for that which was happened, requyring pardon at his handes, and promising him that if Theodore would take her to his wife, he was right well content to bestowe her vpon him.

Prince willingly accepted of his excuses, and answered.

It is my will and intente that my Gentle take youre Daughter: and if he will not, I am contente the sentence pronounced against him, be put in execution: Prince and maister Emery being agreede, they went togither to seeke Theodore, at the place where he was, yet fearefull of death, and dolefull thoughtes had founde his father, who asked him what he was determined to doe in this matter.

Theodore hearing that Violenta should be his wyfe if he would, his ioy was so great, that he thought he leaped out of hell into paradice. And said, he would thinke himselfe right happy so howe it so.

They sent immediately vnto Violenta to knowe her intente, who hearing that which was hapned to Theodore, and what should come to passe, where before she was the heauiest Creature liuing, onely expecting death, after manye doubts, in the end giuing confidence to that whiche they tolde her, she receiued some comforte, and considered, that if she might obtaine her desyre in this behalfe, there coulde

not

not happen a thing that would more content her, then to be the wife of Theodore.

But notwithstanding, shee sayd shee would doe that which her father had commaunded her, if so it pleased him, when this match was thus agreede vppon on all sides, maister Emory made assumptions ready, to the greate contentment of the whole Cittie.

The yong wife comforting herself and causing her yong chyld to be nourished, became shortly after more fresh and fayre then euer shee was. And when Plinee retourned againe from Rome, she vsed such reuerence towards him as appertained to her father, and he being very well contented to haue so fayre and honest a Daughter, hauing celebrated the Nuptials with great cheare and feasting, he receiued her for his Daughter, and euer after so accompted her. And within a few dayes after, he, his sonne, his fayre Daughter, and his little Nephew tooke shipping and sayled to Laiazze where the two Louers remayned as long as they liued in peace and quietnesse.

Finis.

¶ One named Salard, departing from Genes, came to Montferat where he transgressed three commaundementes that his Father gaue him by his last will and Testamente, and being condemned to dye, was deliuered, and returned againe into his owne countrey.

Right happye and blessed is that chylde which with dutifull reuerence, sheweth himselfe obedient to his Parentes, For in so doing, he fulfilleth the commaundement that God hath giuen him, and shall therefore liue long vpon the earth, hauing good successe in al his affayres, where contrariwise, the disobedient child, is alwayes accompted miserable, and moste vnhappy, for commonly his enterprises haue an euel and wicked end, as you may easily perceiue by this fable following.

In Genes (which is a very ancient Cittie, and possibly as full of pleasaunt delightes as any other) there was dwelling not long since a Gentleman named Renaulde Scaille, a man truely no lesse abundant in the giftes of fortune, then in the graces of the minde: moreouer (being so ritch and learned as he was) he had a sonne named Salard, whome he loued most intyrely. wherefore like a good and louing Father: he instructed and taught him, not suffering him to want any thing that was profitable or praise worthy for him.

Now it happened that Renauld being well stricken in yeares, fell into a great and greuous mallady, and perceiuing himself to be at the point of deth, sent for a Scrineuer to make his wil, whereby he constituted Salard for his heyre, praying him as a good father, to obserue thre commaundementes which he prescribed vnto him, without euer transgressing them.

The fyrst was, that for any loue that he bare to his wyfe he

he should neuer reueale his secretes vnto her.

The second was, that he should not nourish and bring vp as his childe, or take for his heyre one that was not of his owne issue.

The thyrde was, that he should neuer subiect himselfe to anye Lorde that gouerned his countrey after his owne minde.

This done, hauing blessed him, hee tourned his heade towardes the Wall, and shortlye after yeelded vp the Ghost.

Now Salard, that after his Fathers death, remayned sole inheritour of all his goods and possessions, perceiuing himselfe to be yong, ritch, and of a good progenie, whereas he should haue wholy applied himselfe to consyder of his fathers commaundementes, and the waighty affayres which were faine vnto him by the newe possession of his patrimony, he determined to take a wyfe, and suche a one, and of such a famely as should well contenshim. So will he applied his businesse, & followed the matter so effectually, that ere one whole yeare was fully expired after his fathers decease, hee matched himselfe with one Theodore, Daughter to one maister Odescale Doria, a Gentleman of Genes, and one of the chiefe in all the citie.

This Gentlewoman being faire, and very well fauoured, though she were somewhat shrewish, was so well beloued of her husband, as neither by day nor night he could well abide to be out of her company. when they had continued a while together, without hauing any issue at all betweene them, Salard with his wiues consente, was mooued to chose some one for his childe Adoptiue, contrary to the will and commaundement of his father, purposing to bring it vp as his own, and according to that his determination, presently putting the matter in execution, he chose for his chylde adoptiue, a yong gyrle named Postume that was Daughter to a poore widdowe, dwelling in the same Citie, whome they brought vp, somewhat more

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wantonly their well beseemed

So many after, Salard determined to depart from Genes, & to inhabite in some other soyle, not because he had anye disliking of the place (for there was no reason he shoulde, hauing there no want of any thing that was meete for his degree, vnagreeable with his mind) but was moued thereunto by a desyre of chaunge, which is commonly incident to all those that be at their owne libertye, and not subiecte to any superiour, wherefore hauing gotten a good purse of Money, with Iewels and other great riches, beeing also well furnished with Horse and Armoure, hee departed from Genes with his wife Theodore, and his adopted Daughter Posume, and passing towardes Piemont, at the last he arriued at Montferat where hee was honourably receiued of the inhabitaunts, and there in shorte time growing in acquaintaunce with diuerse, hee often times rode a hunting with the townes men and citizens, vsing with them diuerse other exercises, wherin he tooke delight, so that his magnificence beeing well knowne throughout the whole Citie, he was not onely beloued of the common sorte, but also greatly esteemed and honoured amongest the cheefest, which comming to the eares of the Marques, that gouerned those partes, he desyred to be acquainted with him, and perceiuing that hee was yong, rich, noble borne, wise and apte to all thinges, hee began to beare so great affection towardes him, as hee could not suffer him one whole day together to bee out of his company.

To be shorte, so great was the loue of the Marques towardes Salard, as he would neuer vouchsafe his fauour to any wight, vnlesse his sute were first preferred by him. Wherfore Salard, seeing himselfe in so greate credite with him, sought all meanes possible to please him, in doing that which might be most to his liking.

The Marques that was but yong, tooke great pleasure in hawking and to hunte wilde Beastes, for which cause

as

as it appertained to the degree of so greate a Lorde, he kepte continually great store of Hawkes and Houndes, and would neuer goe abroade but he would haue Salardo with him.

It happened one day aboue the rest, that Salardo being alone in his chamber, began to thinke of the great honours that the Marques had done vnto him. Then he began to consider the good graces, honest behauiour and good manners of his adoptiue daughter Posthume, and how obedient she was to him and his wyfe at all assayes, and in this sort discoursing with himselfe he sayde.

Alas my Father greatly deceiued: surely I holde me he doted, as commonly all old men doe. I know not whether it were through follye or rudenesse that he did with such instance expresly commaunde mee not to bring vp a childe that was not of myne owne issue: subiect my wife to the will of a Lorde that gouerneth his subiectes after his owne fancy.

Now doe I plainely perceiue that all his commaundements were vtterly voyde of truth: For Posthume that is my adopted Daughter, and not of myne owne issue, is so good a childe, so witty, gentle, well behaued, and obedient, as may be required.

Besides that, is it possible that I should aspire where he better beloued then I am of the Marques? It is certain that in these parts he hath no superioure, neither is there any his equall, and yet the loue he beareth me, and the honour that daily he doth vnto me, is so great, that it is commonly said I am his gouernour, wherein I haue greate meruaile.

There are many such like men, who hauing vtterly forgotten what they themselues were in their youth, would prescribe newe Lawes and Ordinances to their Children, and all in vaine nor trouble their heades in bringing them to that which they themselues neuer obserued.

Wherein

what vntowardnes they are not moued, for any loue that they beare vnto them, but onelye to trouble them long time with the obseruation of such thinges as are to no purpose. But seeing in two of those pointes whiche my Father prescribed vnto me (contrary to my expectation) I haue had so good successe, I minde eare long to make tryall of the thyrde, though it be nothing needefull, for I am well assured, that my sweete wife, and friendly companion, will soone confirme the same by her harty good will, and loyalty towardes me.

Then shall shee, whome I more esteeme then the Apple of my eye, geue the world plainely to vnderstande, with what great folly these olde men doe commonlye infected, that adde to their will such ridiculous conditions. Nowe may I well suppose that my father when he made his will was deprined of his right sence, and that as a witlesse old man, and vnwoorthy of all good iudgement, heeld the deedes of a childe.

In whome may I better haue confidence, then in myne owne wife, that hath forsaken her Father, her mother, her brethren, her Sisters, and her owne family, to bee made one onlye soule and one onely hart with me. so y I may safely reueale my secretes vnto her of what importaunce soeuer they be: I will then make proofe of her loyalty, not for that I doe any thing mistrust her, (being wel assured that she loueth me more then her selfe) but to followe therein the custome of other yong men that doe fondly suppose it to be a very foule offence, to breake the lewde and beastlye ordinances of their parentes, which doe continually run into some foolish frantie, as men that are beside themselues.

Thus Salard with himselfe deriding his fathers wise and profitable precepts, purposed to breake the thyrd, and thereupon, departing from his owne house, went straighte to the Marques pallace, and going to the place where his Hawkes were kept, he take the best of them, and that which the Marques made most account of, from the perch, where

where it stoode, and secretly conueyde it to the house of a deare friend of his named maister Frauncis, and presented the same vnto him, praying him of all loues to keepe it, vntil such time as he did further vnderstand his mind. and then retourning home againe, he secretlye slue one of his owne Hawkes, and carried it to his wife saying vnto her in this maner. My welbeloued Theodore I cannot as you may well perceiue, haue one houre of rest for the Marques. For be he a hunting hawking, exercising feats of armes, or doing any other exploit, he alwayes keepeth me occupied with one thing or other, in so much as I am often in the case that I know not well whether I be deare or alme, wherfore to prevent our daily exercise in hawking, I haue played him such a prancke, as when he knoweth of it, will not very well content him, and peraduenture it may be a meane to make him keepe at home for a while, & so shall we take our ease togither. Then sayd his wyfe, what haue you done vnto him? he answered, I haue slain the best and most beloued hawke that he had, and I beleeue when he willeth it and can heare no tydings of it, he will die for anger and despight, and therwith pulling out the dead hawke from vnder his cloke, he deliuered it vnto his wife, charging her to cause it to be dressed, saying: that hee would feede vpon it for the Marques sake. Theodore hearing her husbands words, and seing the dead hawke, made great mone, and turning towarde him, began to reprooue him for the offense he had committed. I marualle (qd shee) how you could finde in your hart to commit such a trespas against my Lord Marques that beareth you so great good will, he hath alwayes bene ready to pleasure you in anye thing y you would requyre of him, hauing you alwais the placed next to his owne person: Alas husband you haue hereby wrought our vtter ruine. If by il hap the Marques haue the least inkeling in the worlde that you haue done this euil deede, what shall become of you, surely you shalbe in great danger of death: where vnto Saiard replyed, how

should the Marques haue vnderstanding of it. There is none but onely you and I that knoweth it, wherefore I praye you for the loue that you alwayes haue borne, and yet doe beare vnto me, that you will not in anye wyse reueale it, for if you doe, it will be an vtter vndoing to vs both.

Doubt you not of that (sayde she) for I had rather dye a thousand deathes then open such a secret. when ỹ hawke was drest and redy to be eaten, Salard and Theodore sette them down togither at the table, but Theodore notwithstanding that he requesting her very earnestly would not eate one morsell of it. wherefore perceiuing how small accompt she made of his wordes, as one throughly angred, he gaue her so great a blow on the face with his fist, ỹ her cheeke waxed very red withall, whiche shee taking more greeuously fell straighte on weeping, and complayned greatlye of his hard dealing with her. And then riling from the table in a furye, mumbling the Deuils Paternoster, threatned him and sayd, shee would remember that iniury all the dayes of her lyfe, and would be sufficiently reuenged both of the time and place.

The next morning riling before her ordinarye hower, without longer lingering shee repayred to the Marques, telling him from point to point of the death of his Hawke.

Which when the Marques heard, being inflamed with fury, not attending what Salard could say for himselfe, presently caused him to be apprehended, and without further consideration of the matter, condemned him to bee hanged, and to lose all his goods, which he willed to be deuided in three parts.

whereof the first should remaine to his wife for accusing him, the second to his Daughter, and the third to him that would doe the execution vpon him.

Now Postume that was growne to be a proper and well fauoured wench, vnderstanding what sentence was pronounced against her father (for ỹ which she vtterly greatly

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greeued) went presently to her mother, and saide vnto her.

Mother were it not much better that I by doing the execution vpon my father, should gaine the third part of his goods, then a straunger. Then her mother said surely my Daughter this is very well considered of thee, and I wold it were so, for by that meanes all his goods shall remaine vnto vs two.

Then went Postume to the Marques and made sute vnto him that she might be suffred to do the execution vppon her father, to the end that (as he had ordayned) she might thereby be the inheritour to the thyrde parte of his goods, vnto which her request, the Marques willingly accorded. Salard hauing now secretly informed his friend Faunces of the whole matter, intreated him that when hee was at the poynt to be led to the place of execution there to be put to Death, he would presently repayre to the Marques and intreate him that he might be brought before him, and that he would vouchsafe to heare him speake a few words vnto him before he was put to death, which Faunces when time serued performed accordingly.

In the meane time Salard remayning in prison with Fetters on his feete, expecting euery howre when hee should be led to the place of execution, there to suffer a shameful and villanous death, weeping bitterlye sayde vnto himself. Now doe I playnly perceiue but all to late that my good aged father with his long experience did counsell mee to nothing but that which might haue bene for my health and singuler commoditye, if I hadde well wayed it.

He like a wise and graue person gaue me good precepts, and I vnhappy and witles wretch made no accompte of them. Hee commaunded me for my ease and benefitte, to flye from these my domesticall ennemies, and I to offer them the occasion whereby they mygbte bring mee to this shameful ende, and to make them conceaue

great pleasure in the same, haue yelded my self vnto their discretion, my father lykewise knowing ỳ nature of Princes to be such, that in one howre they will both loue and lothe, exhault and pull downe, counsayled mee to seperate my selfe from them, and I (foole that I am) to be depriued of my goods, honour, and life, haue moste vnwisely sought after them. O Salard, Salard, how much better had it bene for thee, if thou hadst followed thy fathers steppes, suffering flatterers and lewde persons to follow the courts of princes and great Lordes. Now see I wel to what passe I am like to come, by trusting to much to my selfe, my wicked wife, vngracious chylde, and aboue all by to much beleeuing the fained friendship of the vngrateful Marques. Now do I certainly know how well hee loued me, what might he doe worse vnto me: surely nothing, for at one instaunt would he take from me my liuing, lyfe, and honour, alas how sooneis his great loue conuerted to cruell and bloody hatred. I see this prouerbe is not vsed in vain, that these great Lordsare like vnto wine in a Bottle, which is good in ỳ morning, & naught at night. O vnhappy Salard, to what pas art thou come? where is thy nobilitye? where are thy deare parents? where is thy great riches? where is thy loyaltie? thy good inclination, and accustomed curtesy, O my louing father, I am sure if you were aliue againe to beholde me in this place, redy to suffer death, For none other offence but onely for infringing your fatherlye precepts (through the dede) deserue far greter punishment thē this that is now alotted vnto me, you would not only seke & sue to saue me from it, but would daily hartily pray to God to haue pitty vpon my youthful follies, & the offences wher vnto only ignorance hath led me, And I for my part, as an vnthankfull and disobedient chyld, that haue not regarded your graue and gracious commaundements, would moste humbly beseech you to pardon me. whilst Salarde was thus debating and complayning to himselfe, his daughter Postume (like a good and well instructed haugman) repay-

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red to the prison where he was, and there most arrogantly presenting her selfe before him, she vsed these or such lyke wordes.

Father for as much as frowarde fortune hath ordayned that according to the sentence which my Lord Esquire hath pronounced against you, you shall this day without faile suffer death, and that the third part of your goods is allotted vnto them that shall doe the execution vppon you, knowing the loue that you beare vnto me, I hope you will not be offended, if I take vpon me to discharge that office my selfe, for in so doing your goods shall not fall into the handes of straungers, but remain still to those of your owne family, wherwith me thinketh you should be well contented. Salard ỹ gaue attentiue eare to his daughters wordes aunswered in this manner, God blesse thee my daughter, thy reasons are very good, and please me right well, and though before I were vnwilling to dy, now would I gladly end my life, doe then thy office my daughter, and defeare the time no longer. Then he craued pardon & kissing him, toke the halter and put it about his neck, exhorting him to take his death patiently, Salard seing ỹ sodain alteration of thinges, was greatly astonished and issuing out of the prison, with his handes bound behind him, & the halter about his neck, accompanied with his bayly, & all the rest of the officers, & ministers of iustice, he passed with all speede to the place of execution, & being come thither tourning his back towards the ladder that was set against the Gibbet, hee wente leyserlye from steppe to steppe till hee came to the toppe, where with a stoute courage and stable countenaunce, he beheld the people on euery syde, declaring treatablye and with greate deliberation, why he was brought thither and then in louing and friendlye maner, craued pardon for all his faultes and offences committed, earnestlye exhorted Children to bee obediente to their Parents and Elders, when the people had hard the whole cause of Salards condemnation, there was not one

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in the companye but wepte, and greatelye lamented the hard hap of this poore yong man, and desyred GOD to giue them the grace to take example by him.

Whylste theſe thinges were a doing, his friende Frauncis (that was not vnmindefull of him,) tooke his way to the Marques Pallaice, and hauing founde fit opportunity, in moſte humble wiſe beſought him that Salard might be broughte to his preſence, to aunſwere for himſelfe, before he were put to death, aſſuring him that he was not guilty of the crime for which he had condemned him, and therevppon pleadged his lyfe: So that at the laſt with much adoe, the Marques cauſed Salard to be reprined, & willed he ſhould be broughte vnto him with the Halter about his neck, and the hangman with him. which was performed accordingly.

So ſoone as Salard was come into the Marques preſence, whoſe face was yet inflamed with furye, he beganne with a bolde courage, and ſtedfaſt countenaunce (not being any thing troubled in his mind,) to vtter theſe ſuche lyke wordes.

Syr, the ſeruice that I haue done you, and the loue that I haue borne vnto you, hath not deſerued the outrage and ſhame that you haue done vnto me, in condemning mee to dye ſo ſhameful & villanous a death. And although the diſpleaſure that you haue taken againſt my great follye, (if it may be termed folly) hath prouoked you to vſe ſuch cruelty towards me, contrary to your naturall diſpoſition, yet ſhoulde you not ſo ſodainly condemne me to deth without hearing me aunſwere in my owne behalfe, for the Hawke, for the which you are ſo much offended, (thinking that it is dead) is yet liuing, and in as good caſe as euer it was.

And thinke not Syr that I woulde preſume to kill or hurt it by any meanes, but this that I haue done, was to make tryall of certaine thinges that I was before warned of, as I will manifeſt vnto you.

And